

BRIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DEEP

WEEKLY UPDATE - 17 September 2020



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VP: South Deep

LET'S TALK

South Deep COVID-19 Sero-Surveillance Study



Colleagues

This week, our President announced the further relaxation of COVID-19 control measures. This was based on the very encouraging reduction in COVID-19 infections across the country and the ability of our medical facilities to deal with the current infection rate. Notwithstanding a relaxation in the lockdown levels, the COVID-19 risk remains relevant and continues to require the utmost diligence. For this reason, many of the COVID-19 protocols we have implemented at South Deep Mine will remain in place. In the interest of our people we will continue to assess the workplace risks, and where relevant review and amend some of our COVID-19 protocols. As a start we have evaluated the requirement for all employees to wear face shields and made a decision that it is no longer mandatory for our employees to wear their face shields in congested public places such as in gathering halls, crush, cage, training rooms and offices. Please note that face shields will still be available to anyone requesting one.

The appropriate health precaution of donning face masks continues for the foreseeable future and other related safety protocols, including the wearing of safety goggles, remain mandatory.



Face shields are optional,
no longer mandatory



Wearing of masks and
goggles remains mandatory

South Deep to participate in research for COVID-19

The South Deep response to COVID-19 launched in March 2020 was based on extensive research that took into account the experiences of other affected countries and their responses to the pandemic. Our campaign adopted further protocols as recommended by the World Health Organization, the Department of Health and various local and international academic institutions. As scientific studies developed over time, we adjusted our COVID-19 campaign to optimise our on-mine protocols, which included the 4-tier screening and testing approach we run in partnership with the CSIR. We have tested all our people and are currently conducting a second round of testing. These extensive testing protocols are unique to South Deep and position us well to be able to participate in further research aimed at understanding and curbing the impact of COVID-19.

We are certain that the South Deep campaign reduced the impact of COVID-19 on our people, their families and our communities, especially when you compare our figures to national, regional and local industry trends. This is due to the impressive level of adherence to our COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control and Social Distancing protocols and good practices by our employees and their families.

Scientists project that up to 20% of South Africans may have been infected with COVID-19, whether detected or undetected. This is based on recent antibody and Seroprevalence-type or 'serology' studies. The body produces antibodies once a person becomes infected with COVID-19, and these fight off the virus. The studies confirm that a number of people may have contracted the coronavirus but showed no symptoms as the antibodies effectively fought off the virus and they recovered fully without even knowing that they had contracted the coronavirus.



We now have an opportunity to better understand the pandemic and to align our on-mine campaign with best practice. To achieve this, we have agreed to partner with the Minerals Council and the Aurum Institute in a mining industry COVID-19 Sero-Surveillance Study. The main aim of this study is to determine risk factors for infection and to monitor new infections over time. The study will specifically determine the following:

- Serological measurement of COVID-19 infection prevalence among employee groups;
- The range of symptoms, duration of symptoms, requirement for treatment and hospitalisations;
- Risk factors for COVID-19 infection, for example age, occupation, gender, past medical conditions; and
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Infection Prevention & Control measures

The proposed COVID-19 Sero-Surveillance Study will involve a random selection of a sample of South Deep employees to participate in the study over the next few months. Employee participation in the study will be at the same time as the current COVID-19 tests being conducted on the mine. A specific briefing will be given to participants of the Sero-Surveillance Study, to ensure full understanding and to emphasise that the study will be governed by very strict ethics around, for example, confidentiality and informed voluntary consent.

How this will benefit South Deep and its people

The benefit of the study for South Deep employees will be that it makes science-based, mine-specific information available on the COVID-19 characteristics and enhanced COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control measures. As reported in the media, there is currently no COVID-19 vaccine available and its development and trials are still on-going. As a result, we will continue to rely on our established COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control and Social Distancing protocols as the threat of infection continues to remain high.

In a time of turbulence, it is more true than ever that knowledge is power. From research we are learning that a very small percentage of asymptomatic individuals are now presenting with other medical challenges. Knowing that you may have contracted COVID-19, but have been asymptomatic, will enable you and your family to monitor any changes in your health.

Further information on the COVID-19 Sero-Surveillance Study will be briefed in the coming weeks and employees are encouraged to participate in the study when launched.

We look forward to making a positive contribution to the research into COVID-19 and trust we can rely on your cooperation in this regard.

BENFORD

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safety



integrity



respect



responsibility



innovation



delivery



GOLD FIELDS

