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Media Release

4 April 2020

As at today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 1585. This is an increase of 80 from the previously reported cases.

The provincial breakdown is as follows:

GAUTENG	693
WESTERN CAPE	433
KWAZULU – NATAL	232
FREE STATE	85
NORTH WEST	11
MPUMALANGA	18
LIMPOPO	18
EASTERN CAPE	25
NORTHERN CAPE	7
UNALLOCATED	63

The total number of COVID-19 tests conducted to date is 53 937.

REPORTING OF CONFIRMED DEATHS

South Africa now has a total of 9 confirmed deaths associated with COVID-19.

NO.	PROVINCE	SEX	AGE
1	WESTERN CAPE	FEMALE	48
2	FREE STATE	MALE	85
3	GAUTENG	MALE	79
4	KWAZULU-NATAL	FEMALE	46
5	KWAZULU-NATAL	MALE	74
6	KWAZULU-NATAL	FEMALE	63
7	KWAZULU-NATAL	FEMALE	81
8	KWAZULU-NATAL	FEMALE	80
9	KWAZULU-NATAL	MALE	80

POSITIVE CASES FROM NETCARE ST AUGUSTINE'S HOSPITAL – DURBAN, KZN

We have received a report from KZN Health MEC, Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu that KwaZulu-Natal has 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to St Augustine's Hospital, in Durban. Furthermore, 3 of the deceased patients from KZN had been admitted at the hospital.

The COVID-19 positive cases include patients, health workers and other staff members. The KZN Department of Health and Netcare management agreed that the sections of the hospital affected be closed and no new patient admissions be permitted. This is a precautionary measure to allow for a thorough identification of areas within the hospital where there may have been infection control lapses.

The areas that were exposed to positive patients are also being disinfected. At this stage more than 150 tests have been conducted within the hospital and contact tracing is underway. We have advised that more tests be done on both staff and patients in order to determine the true extent of the existence of the infection in the facility, which may call for further interventions.

As part of intensifying the contact tracing and testing process, MEC Simelane-Zulu has also requested that Netcare avails a list of its patients that were exposed to the hospital as from the beginning of March. We therefore make a public announcement that if you were a patient at St Augustine's Hospital from 1 March 2020 to date, we request that you contact the KZN Department of Health.

We convey our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased. We also thank the doctors, health workers and all staff members of this hospital for their commitment to serve even during these difficult times.

Dr Zwelini Mkhize
Minister of Health
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