



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service



COVID-19 Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS) for South African Workplaces

20 October 2020

Healthy, Safe, Happy & Sustainable Workplaces

PROMOTING DECENT WORK THROUGH CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH, SPECIALISED SERVICES, INFORMATION, TEACHING AND TRAINING

Introduction

- There is a lack of adequate data on the impact of COVID-19 on the various business sectors in South Africa.
- The data collection and reporting process for employers is currently not co-ordinated or fully implemented.
- Importance in Level 1 of Lockdown- workers are heading back into the workplace.

Thus the Occupational Health Surveillance System was created with the following objectives:

- Develop a framework for a COVID-19 surveillance model for monitoring workers in various economic sectors, both in the public and private sectors.
- Early identification of sectors/companies and occupational groups at high risk of infection so as to inform appropriate interventions (e.g. policy, programs, resources).
- Evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 interventions in the workplace.
- Determine the human resource and economic impact of COVID-19 on the various sectors.
- To provide regular updates on the trajectory of the pandemic in various economic sectors nationally.
- Identification of key scientific questions requiring further investigation.

The Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)

Partners in this initiative include the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), Centre for Industrial Research (CSIR), Business for South Africa (B4SA) and occupational medicine specialists from several Universities, together with several major private sector corporations.

The data collected will be used to monitor trends in the disease, identify workplace risk factors and design effective intervention strategies.

Data will be stored in the OHSS data lake at the NIOH.



The delivery team is backed by a sound governance structure



Sponsor & Owner



Steering Committee



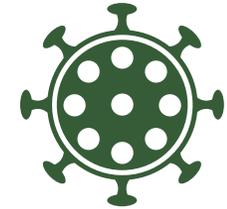
- Government (NDoH, NIOH and NICD)
- Business (B4SA) and Labour Representatives
- Representatives from the **Scientific** Committee
- Representatives from the **Data Management** and Processing Technical Committee.

Data Management Committee



- NIOH
- CSIR
- Business** Experts

Scientific Committee



Responsibility ensuring the **scientific validity** of the data being collected, the data **quality**, its routine reporting, and formulating **research** questions

Confidentiality

- Data in the data lake will be anonymised and any identifying information removed after a period of 6 weeks.
- All OHSS data collected by NIOH will be securely stored and processed in the NIOH data centre.
- All systems used for data collection, storage, and processes will be **assessed on regular basis** (every month) for any security vulnerabilities.

Categories of data to be submitted

- Vulnerability assessments
- Symptom screening
- Positive case
- High exposure work contact
- Return to work



Vulnerability assessments

- Once off data submission

EmployeeID			
BusinessID			
Province			
District			
Sex (Male/Female)			
Age (Years)			
Job Category			
Vulnerability Status	Yes/No		
If yes answer below:			
Comorbidity Detail: Asthma Chronic Lung Disease Diabetes Hypertension, Serious heart conditions Chronic kidney disease Chronic liver disease Immunocompromised Tuberculosis previous Tuberculosis current HIV	Yes/No/Unknown	Risk Factors: Age=>60 years Smoking current Pregnancy => 28 weeks Obesity FLU Vaccine received	Yes/No/Unknown Yes/No/Unknown

Screening data

Collected daily from employees but submitted weekly to OHSS

BusinessID	
Consent	
Employee ID	
Screening Date	
Employee Age	
Employee Gender	
Job Category	
Province	
District	
Symptoms Status	Yes/ No
If yes: (Submitted if available)	
Fever	
Chills	
Dry Cough	
Sore Throat	
Shortness of Breath	
Tiredness	
Lack of smell or taste	
Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes)	
Diarrhoea	
Muscle pains	
Nausea or vomiting	
Dizziness	
Headache	
Screening Outcome-	No action required
	Referred for self-isolation
	Referred for testing
	Referred to the doctor

Positive test case data

Submitted when there is a positive case

EmployeeID	
SA National ID	
BusinessID	
Province	
District	
Sex	(Male/Female)
Age	
Job Category	
Test Date	
Test Type	Unknown
	PCR
	Antigen
	Antibody
Symptoms Positive	Yes/No
Number of High Risk Contact/s	
Vulnerability Status	Yes/No
Test Result Action	Sick Leave Self-Isolation at home Isolation at quarantine site Hospitalisation
Exposure Information	Unknown Work contacts Community contacts Family contacts Large events contacts Travel history from a designated hotspot Public transport
Reporting Actioned	Reported to Department of Employment and Labour Reported to COIDA Reported to DMRE

Return to work data

Submitted when employee returns to work

EmployeeID	
BusinessID	
Province	
District	
Sex	(Male/Female)
Age	(Years)
Job Category	
Hospitalisation	Yes/No
Date Admission (If hospitalised)	Date
Outcome	Discharge Death
Outcome Date	Date
Return to Work Date	Date
Return To Work Fitness	Fit for Job Description Fit with Accommodation Fit with restrictions Temporarily unfit for Job Unfit for review Permanently Unfit
Compensation Claim	Yes/No
% Disablement	%__ Unknown
COID Claim Reference No	000000 (if not known)

OHSS Process

1. Confirm that your business has 50 or more employees per site.

The Department of Employment and Labour Directive – 28th September 2020- applies to your business.

2. Read the NDoH guidelines on the submission of COVID-19 related health data. 1 October 2020

3. Register on the OHSS business registration portal: <https://ohss.nioh.ac.za/>

4. An email confirming registration will be sent to you.

5. An email with your business ID, Username and password with the link to the submission portal will be sent to the email contact.

6. Submissions can commence.

OHSS Process

Business Registration

Business Name * Required

Industry * Required

Address * Required

Province * Required

District

Contact Name * Required

Contact Email * Required

Contact Number * Required

Sector Affiliation * Required

Non Disclosure Consent * Required

Total Employees * Required

Female Employees * Required

Male Employees * Required

Please supply the number of employees in the below Job Categories

# Managers ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Professionals ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Technicians and Associate Prof. ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Clerical Support Workers ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>
# Service and Sales Workers ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Skilled Trades ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Plant and Machine ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>	# Elementary Occupations ⓘ <input type="text" value="0"/>

Preferred data submission process * Required

API Integration ⓘ

CSV via NextCloud ⓘ

CMORE platform submission ⓘ

I have read and accepted the Occupational Health Surveillance System [Terms & Conditions](#)

More information can be obtained from the NIOH website:

<https://www.nioh.ac.za/covid-19/occupational-health-surveillance-system-ohss-business-portal/>

For queries:

OHSworkplace@nioh.ac.za – all queries

ohssupport@nioh.ac.za – IT queries



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