



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

Occupational Health Services for COVID-19, HIV and TB – The South African Experience

Muzimkhulu Zungu



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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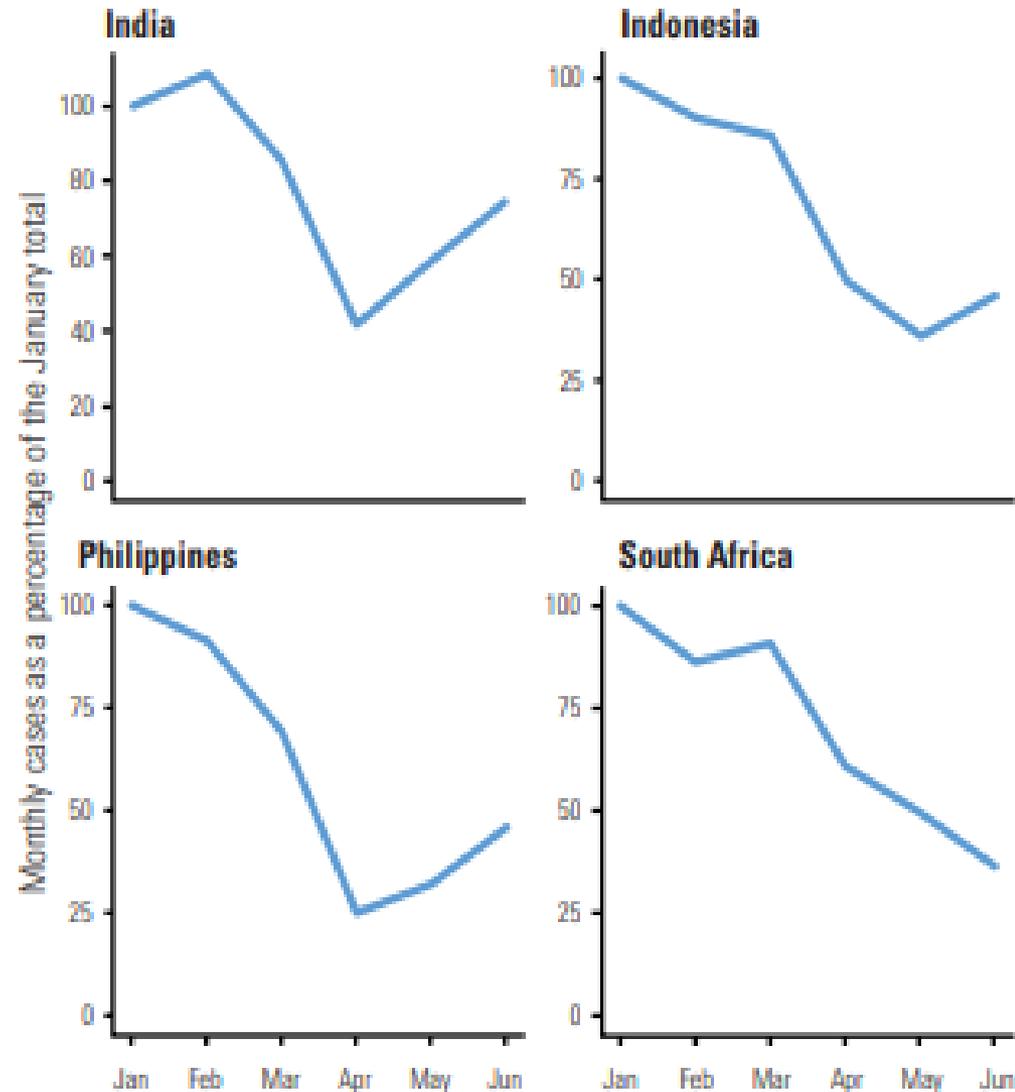
Objectives

- Introduce the basic structure of occupational health services (OHS) for COVID-19, HIV & TB
- Discuss the role of the workplace

Importance of COVID-19, HIV & TB

- The pandemic & actions taken have far-reaching consequences on other diseases (**HIV & TB**), poverty, food security, and economic growth
- The COVID-19 pandemic could cause an increase in deaths due to HIV \approx 10%, TB \approx 20%
- As a result of **substantial disruptions to health services, overburdening the health system** and or **limited programmatic** activities.

Trends in monthly notifications of people diagnosed with TB in four high TB burden countries, January–June 2020



Month (2020)

COVID-19, HIV & TB deaths

- COVID-19 \approx 1,163,459 (On-going)
- HIV \approx 690 000 (2019)
- TB \approx 1.4 million (2019)

Oxford University Press
Public Health Emergency Collection

Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Initiative

[Clin Infect Dis](#). 2020 Aug 29 : ciaa1198.

PMCID: PMC7499501

Published online 2020 Aug 29. doi: [10.1093/cid/ciaa1198](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1198)

PMID: [32860699](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32860699/)

Risk factors for COVID-19 death in a population cohort study from the Western Cape Province, South Africa

[Andrew Boulle](#),^{1,2} [Mary-Ann Davies](#),^{1,2} [Hannah Hussey](#),^{1,3} [Muzzammil Ismail](#),^{1,3} [Erna Morden](#),^{1,3}

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COVID-19 Sentinel Hospital Surveillance Weekly Update on Hospitalized HCWs

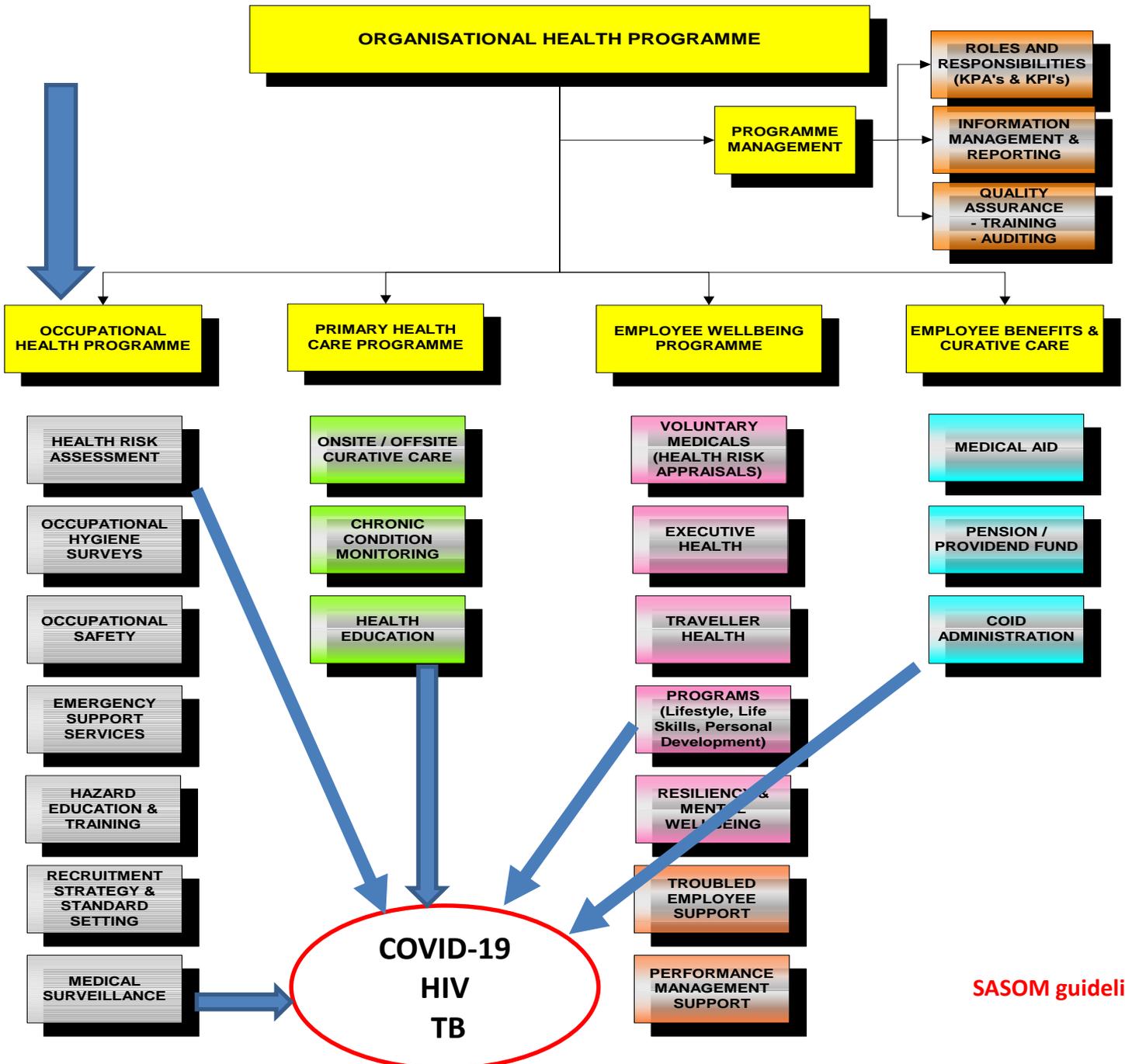
Are these occupational diseases?

- An occupational diseases is any disease contracted primarily as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work (WHO)
- “A disease that has arisen out of and in the course his or her employment” (COID Act)
- “**Work-related diseases**” have multiple causes, where factors in the work environment may play a role, together with other risk factors, in the development of such **diseases**
- **Public Health Importance**

Trade unions

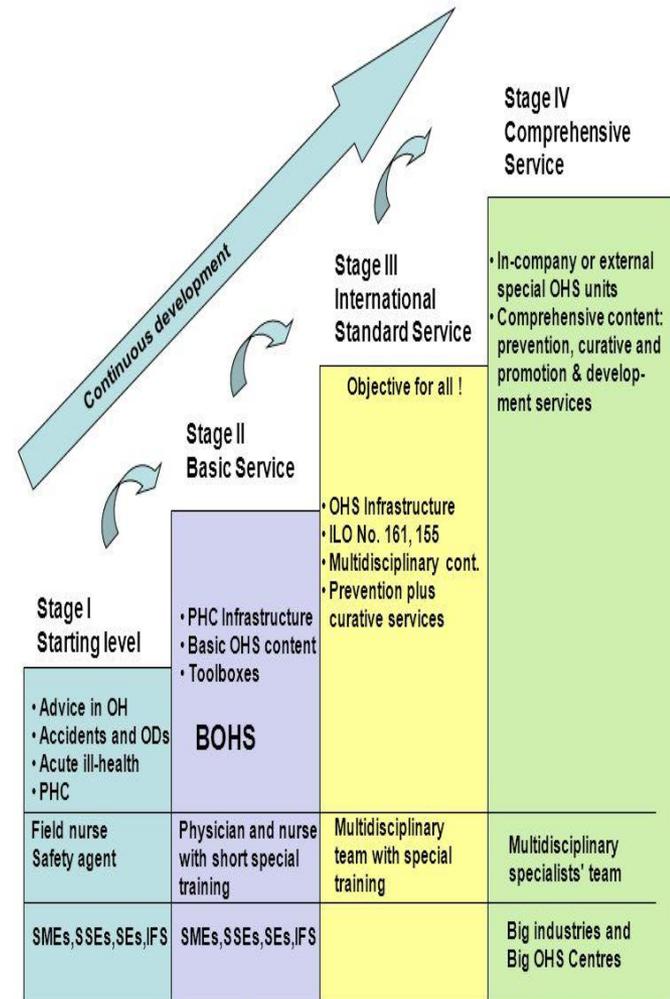
- Compliance
- Negotiations
- Participate in improving OHS
- Create awareness & Advocacy





Basic OHS

- An essential service for protection of people's health at work, for promotion of health, well-being and work ability, as well as for prevention of ill-health and accidents.
- Using scientifically sound and socially acceptable OH methods through PHC approach



courtesy of J Rantanen

Framework for Organisational COVID-19 HIV TB OHS

- Policy
- Service delivery (organising of services / interventions)
- Human resources
- Financing & budgets
- Resources (infrastructure, equipment, medicines, etc.)
- Information (collection and utilisation)

Policy, leadership & coordination



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**National Economic Development
and Labour Council**



**mineral resources
& energy**

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



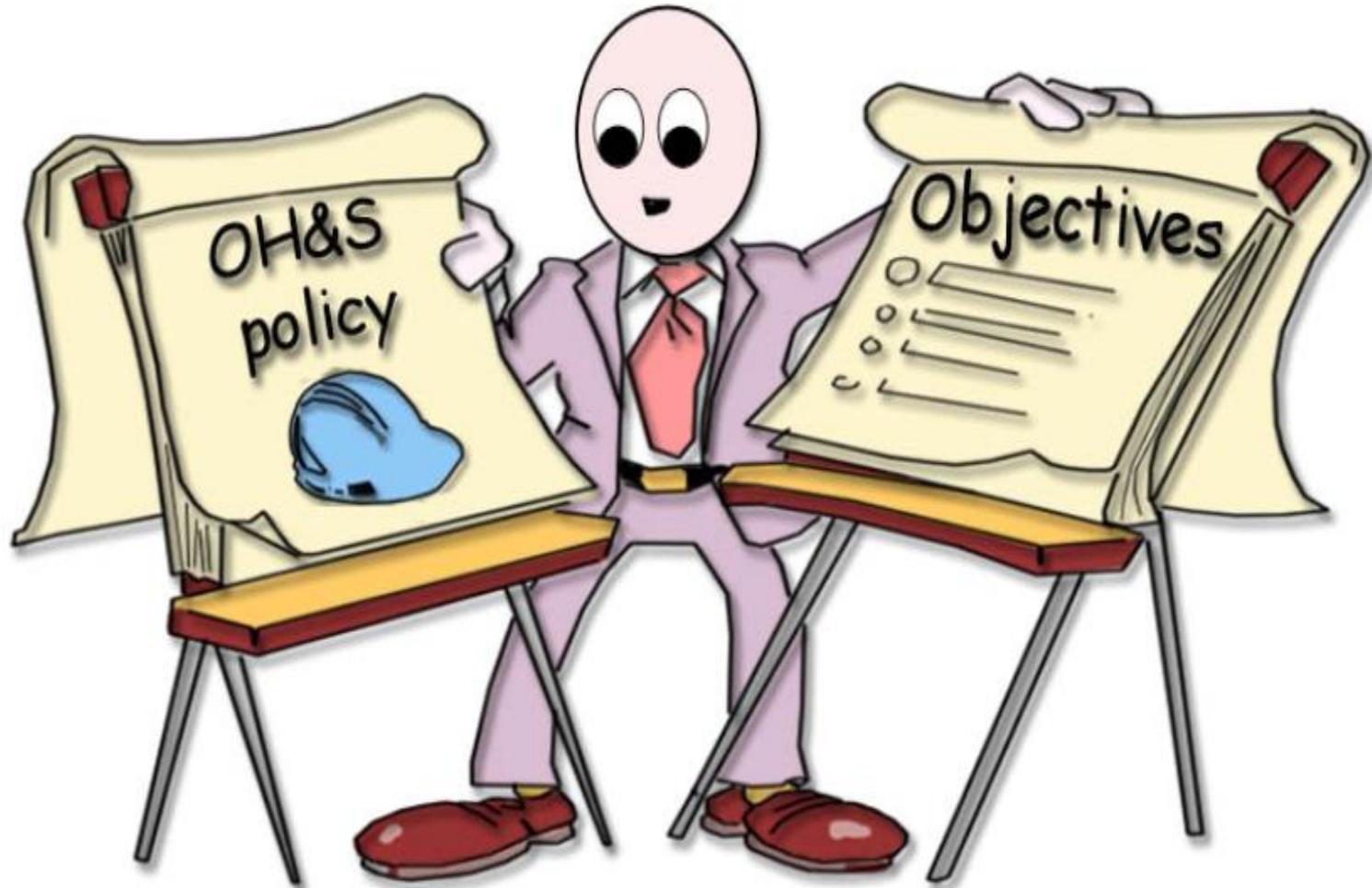
health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Guidelines for symptom monitoring and management of workers for
SARS-CoV-2 infection (version 5: 19 August 2020)**

OHS POLICY

Posted on May 10, 2017 by dhaenalkuwari



Top management is committed to promoting the OH&S policy

Services

- COVID-19 HIV TB OHS:
 - **Primary Prevention (prevent disease or injury before it ever occurs)**
 - Risk Assessment (identify Covid-19 HIV TB hazards & controls)
 - **Develop a plan outlining control measures**
 - **Health and safety committees**
 - Communication, education & training (hazards, controls, stigma, etc.)
 - Vaccines & prophylaxis
 - Health Promotion particularly behavior change

Services

- COVID-19 HIV TB OHS:
 - **Secondary prevention (detecting & treating disease / injury ASAP to halt or slow its progress)**
 - Medical surveillance (HCT, **COVID-19 & TB screening**, treatment, care & support)
 - Sick vs. special leave
 - Vulnerable workers / comorbidities
 - Return to work
 - **Incident based RA & ? Workplace closures**
 - Employee Wellness Programme
 - **Tertiary prevention (manage long-term, often-complex health problems and injuries)**
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Placement
 - Compensation commissioner
 - PILIR

Human Resources

- Occupational Health (nursing, medicine & hygiene)
- Environmental Health
- Safety
- Health & safety reps
- **Compliance officers**
- Mental health
- Other

Resources (infrastructure, equipment, medicines, etc.)

- A well-functioning OHS ensures equitable access to essential medical products, vaccines and technologies of assured quality, safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness
 - Office space
 - Medical equipment & products
 - Information Systems (IT)

Information & Research

- Sound and reliable information is the foundation of **making decision**
 - Sources of Information
 - Monitoring & evaluation
 - Information for action
 - Reporting regulatory bodies (DEL, NDoH, NIOH)
 - System to collect & use information

PROGRAMME INTEGRATION

**EMERGING & REEMERGING
DISEASES**



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- National Health Laboratory Service
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Thank you

“It always seems impossible until its done”Nelson Mandela