

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service







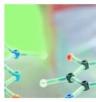




















COVID-19 and the Workplace: An Update

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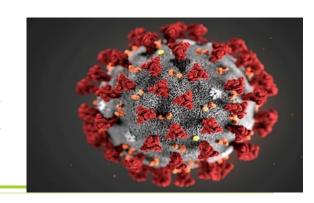
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Where we are Globally and SA

Global cases- 168 M (1,640,932)

Deaths-3.5M (55,976)



COVID-19 Vaccination programs

Global (SA)

- Doses given 1.74 B (701K)
- Fully vaccinated 403M (401K)
- % of population fully vaccinated 5.2%
 (0.8%)







Is it feasible to remove COVID-19 restrictions in the SA workplace?

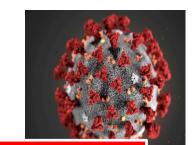




The World Health Organization: Occupational Health

- The main functions include promoting the improvement of working conditions and other aspects of environmental hygiene.
- Recognizing that occupational health is closely linked to public health and health systems development
- Addressing all determinants of workers' health, including
 - risks for disease and injury in the occupational environment
 - social and individual factors, and
 - and access to health services.

COVID-19 and the workplace: Achievements/Lessons learnt



Leadership and governance

Mind shift in Practice

Focus on occupational services and resources

Mobilising available resources and working as team.

Communication and information-sharing

Occupational Health
Epidemiology &
Surveillance

Mental health in the workplace

Still learning... working from home

- COVID-19 National Coordinating Team.. Leadership, guidance...
- Prevention focus (primarily) vs compliance
- Surveillance focus
- Need to enhance occupational health resources and support
- Legislated role of coordinator in the workplace (COVID-19 Compliance Officer).
- Redefining scope of occupational health services.
- Vulnerable workers
- · Multidisciplinary approach is needed.
- Key role-players include:OMP, OHN, Admin Support, OT/Physiotherapy, Occupational hygiene (e.g. PPE), Wellness, HR/ Management, Legal Services, Communications and IT
- Workers and reps
- A sound employee communications strategy
- Provide timely, succinct communication
- Ensure all stakeholders have access to information
- Surveillance is a core activity in the practice of occupational health (OHSS)
- Elevated awareness
- The new normal

Thank you

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