



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service



COVID-19 Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)

for South African Workplaces

14 July 2021

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Healthy, Safe, Happy & Sustainable Workplaces

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

National Occupational Health Surveillance

Occupational Health Surveillance is where a pre selected group of indicators on exposure and health are collected and analysed to inform decision makers.

Provides data and analyses needed to understand the relationship between work and injuries and illness in order

- to improve worker safety and health
- Prevent work related injuries, illness and fatalities
- Pick up changes over time.

Information from surveillance systems will:

- Inform policy development
- Provide guidance for educational activities
- Help develop safer technology
- Enable research and prevention strategies

- e.g. USA → NIOSH worker health surveillance
SA → OHSS (Occupational Health Surveillance System)



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 was not co-ordinated or fully implemented.
- OHSS officially commenced on 1 October 2020.
- Legal framework for reporting of formal sector workers covered by Dept of Employment & Labour direction (28 September 2020).
 - Employers with > 50 employees need to submit the following to NIOH OHSS.
 - Symptomatic employee data weekly
 - Vulnerability status of employees (once off submission, updated as required)
 - Positive case data
 - Return to work/ health outcomes of positive cases

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.



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.

DATA SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Submission process

3 WAYS TO SUBMIT DATA

1. API
2. CMORE
3. CSV uploads **(NEW)**

NEXTCLOUD to stop 1 August 2021

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

EmployeeSAID/ Passportnumber
BusinessID
Date
Province
District
Industry
Age
Sex
JobCategory
VulnerabilityStatus
Asthma
ChronicLungDisease
Diabetes
Hypertension
SeriousHeartConditions
ChronicKidneyDisease
ChronicLiverDisease
Immunocompromised
PreviousTuberculosis
CurrentTuberculosis
HIV
AgeAbove60years
SmokingCurrent
PregnancyAbove28weeks
Obesity
ReceivedFluVaccine

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	SAIDorPasspor	EmployeeWorkID	BusinessID	Date	Province	District	Industry	JobCategory	Hospital	sec e	DateAdmissior	Outcome	OutcomeDate	ReturntoWorkDate	s	CompensationClaim	Disablemen!	StartDateOfInles	IllnessType	EndDateOfInles	ClaimREFNo
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Lists - Spreadsheet

Province	Sex	District/Metros	Job category	Industry
Eastern Cape	Male	District/Metros	Job category	Industry
Free State	Female	Alfred Nzo	Managers	Agriculture, hunting and related services
Gauteng	Other	Amajuba	Professionals	Forestry, logging and related services
KwaZulu-Natal		Amathole	Technicians and Associate Professionals	Fishing, operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms
Limpopo		Bojanala	Clerical Support Workers	Mining of coal and lignite
Mpumalanga		Buffalo City	Services and Sales Workers	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas; service activities incidental to oil and gas extraction, excluding surveying
North West		Cape Winelands	Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, Craft and Related Trades Workers	Mining of gold and uranium ore
Northern Cape		Capricon	Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	Mining of metal ores, except gold and uranium
Western Cape		Central Karoo	Elementary Occupations	Other mining and quarrying
		Chris Hani		Service activities incidental to mining of minerals
Province	Sex	City of Cape Town		Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products
		City of Johannesburg		Manufacture of textiles, clothing and leather goods
		City of Tshwane		Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials; manufacture of paper and paper products; publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media
		Dr Kenneth Kaunda		Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel; manufacture of chemicals and chemical products; manufacture of rubber and plastic products
		Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati		Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products
		Ehlazeni		Manufacture of basic metals, fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment and of office, accounting and computing machinery
		Ekurhuleni		Manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.
		Ekurhuleni		Manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.

Description - spreadsheet

Return to work: Clinical Management and Outcomes		
Title	Field status	Definitions
EmployeeID	Compulsory	System Generated- Provided to business by NIOH
BusinessID	Compulsory	Employer Generated unique employee number
Date	Compulsory	Date when filling in the template
Province	Compulsory	See drop down menu and list
District	Compulsory	See drop down menu and list
Job category	Compulsory	Managers
		Professionals
		Technicians and Associate Professionals
		Clerical Support Workers
		Services and Sales Workers
		Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, Craft and Related Trades Workers
		Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers
Hospitalized	Compulsory	Yes/ No/ Unknown
Hospital Type (Private/Public)	Compulsory	Private/ Public/ Unknown
If Hospitalised:	Compulsory	
Date of admission		Date
Outcome (Discharge or Death)		Discharged or death
Outcome date	Compulsory	Date
Return to work date	Compulsory	Date
Return to work fitness level	Compulsory	Fit for Job Description
		Fit with Accommodation
		Fit with restrictions
		Temporarily unfit for Job Description
		Unfit for review
		Permanently Unfit
Compensation claim	Compulsory	Yes/ No
Percentage disablement	Optional	000000(IF UNKNOWN)
COVID Claim reference number	Optional	000000 (IF UNKNOWN)

Screening data

Collected daily from employees but submitted weekly to OHSS

Symptom Screening		
Title	Field status	Definitions
Business ID	Compulsory	System Generated- Provided to business by NIOH
Consent obtained	Compulsory	REMOVED
Employee ID	Compulsory	Employer Generated unique employee number or SA National ID
Screening date	Compulsory	Date when screened
Employee Age	Compulsory	Years
Employee sex	Compulsory	Male/ Female / Other
Job Category*	Compulsory	Managers Professionals Technicians and Associate Professionals Clerical Support Workers Services and Sales Workers Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, Craft and Related Trades Workers Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers Elementary Occupations
Province	Compulsory	
District	Compulsory	
Symptoms Present (yes/ no)	Compulsory	Yes/No
Fever >38°C	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Chills	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Dry cough	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Sore throat	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Shortness of breath	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Tiredness	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Lack of smell or taste	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Conjunctivitis	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Diarrhoea	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Muscle pains	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Nausea or vomiting	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Dizziness	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Headache	Optional	Yes/No/ Unknown
Screening Outcome No action required Referred for self-isolation Referred for testing Referred to the doctor	Optional	Yes/No

Positive test case data

Submitted when there is
a positive case

Positive test		
Title	Field status	Definitions
Business ID	Compulsory	System Generated- Provided to business by NIOH
Employee Business Generated ID	Compulsory	Employer Generated unique employee number if used in the other templates
Employee SA National ID/ Passport number	Compulsory	SA National ID
Province	Compulsory	
District	Compulsory	
Industry	Compulsory	
Sex	Compulsory	Female/ Male/ Other
Age	Compulsory	Years
Job category	Compulsory	Managers Professionals Technicians and Associate Professionals Clerical Support Workers Services and Sales Workers Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, Craft and Related Trades Workers Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers Elementary Occupations
Test Date	Compulsory	Date
Test type	Compulsory	Unknown/PCR/Antigen/Antibody
Symptoms Present	Compulsory	Yes/ No
Number of high-risk workplace contacts	Compulsory	Number
Vulnerability Present	Compulsory	Yes/ No
Post-test result action	Compulsory	Sick Leave Self-Isolation at home Self-Isolation at quarantine site Hospitalization
Exposure Contact type	Compulsory	Work contacts Community contacts Family contacts Large events contacts Travel history from a designated hotspot Public transport Unknown
Reporting Action	Optional	Reported to Department of Employment and Labour Reported to COIDA Reported to DMRE

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Return to work data

Submitted when employee returns to work

Return to work: Clinical Management and Outcomes		
Title	Field status	Definitions
EmployeeSAID/Passportnumber	Compulsory	
EmployeeWork ID		ID generated by the business
BusinessID	Compulsory	System Generated- Provided to business by NIOH
Date	Compulsory	Date
Province	Compulsory	
District	Compulsory	
Industry		
Job category	Compulsory	Managers Professionals Technicians and Associate Professionals Clerical Support Workers Services and Sales Workers Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, Craft and Related Trades Workers Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers Elementary Occupations
Hospitalized	Compulsory	Yes/ No/ Unknown
Hospital Type (Private/Public)	Compulsory	Private/ Public/ Unknown
If Hospitalised:	Compulsory	
Date of admission		Date
Outcome (Discharge or Death)	Compulsory	Discharged or death
Outcome date	Compulsory	Date
Return to work date	Compulsory	Date
Return to work fitness level	Compulsory	Fit for Job Description Fit with Accommodation Fit with restrictions Temporarily unfit for Job Description Unfit for review Permanently Unfit
Compensation claim	Compulsory	Yes/ No
Percentage disablement	Optional	0000000(IF UNKNOWN)
COID Claim reference number	Optional	0000000 (IF UNKNOWN)
Start if illness date	New	Mild moderate severe
Illness type	New	
End if illness date	New	

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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.

Acknowledgements:

Academia, NICD, CSIR, Private sector (FNB, BUSA, B4SA, Accenture, Webber Wentzel)

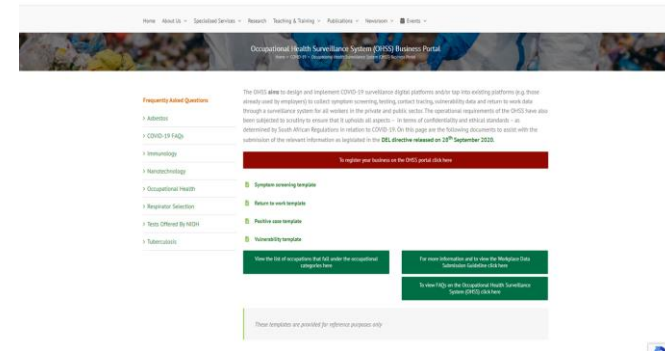
Email: OHSworkplace@nioh.ac.za
ohssupport@nioh.ac.za

OHSS Hotline: 0723215503/ 0713981169

Registration Portal: <https://ohss.nioh.ac.za>

Information about OHSS:

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





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