

NIOH COVID-19 CENTENARY

Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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21 April 2022**



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Presentation Outline

- Introduction.
- Timeline of Interventions.
- Monitoring of COVID-19 compliance in the sector.
- COVID-19 cases and vaccination.
- Conclusion.




INTRODUCTION

- WHO declared COVID-19, a public health emergency of international concern and later in March 2020 declared it a global pandemic.
- COVID- 19 is thus a public health condition whereby management will be guided by the DOH, as the custodians in public health matters.
- The first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in South Africa on the 5th of March 2020.
- On 15 March 2020 the President of South Africa declared a national state of disaster on COVID -19, in terms of the Disaster Management Act.
- On 26 March 2020, a nation-wide lockdown was declared in South Africa
- It was further announced that operations like furnaces and underground mines required to make arrangements for care and maintenance.
- It was on that basis that action had to be taken by the Department to assist in the management of COVID-19 in SAMI.



TIMELINE OF INTERVENTIONS



The Minister of DMRE, met key stakeholders from the sector on the 8 April 2020 to engage on the appropriate measures that should be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID – 19 once all the mines commence with operations from the 17 April 2020.

29th April 2020,
Minister of DMRE issued directions in terms of regulation 10(8) of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002.

18 May 2020
Guideline drafted in line with Section 9 of the MHPA 29 of 1996.

26th of March 2020

Developed “*Guiding Principles on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in SAMI*”,

May 2020-To date:

The guideline is a living document and:

1. Requires employers to prepare and implement a COP for the prevention, mitigation and management of COVID-19 outbreak.
2. Provides a framework to mitigate and manage COVID-19 outbreak amongst employees in the SAMI.
3. Is guided by WHO; DOH; DOEL and other relevant legislation on COVID-19.



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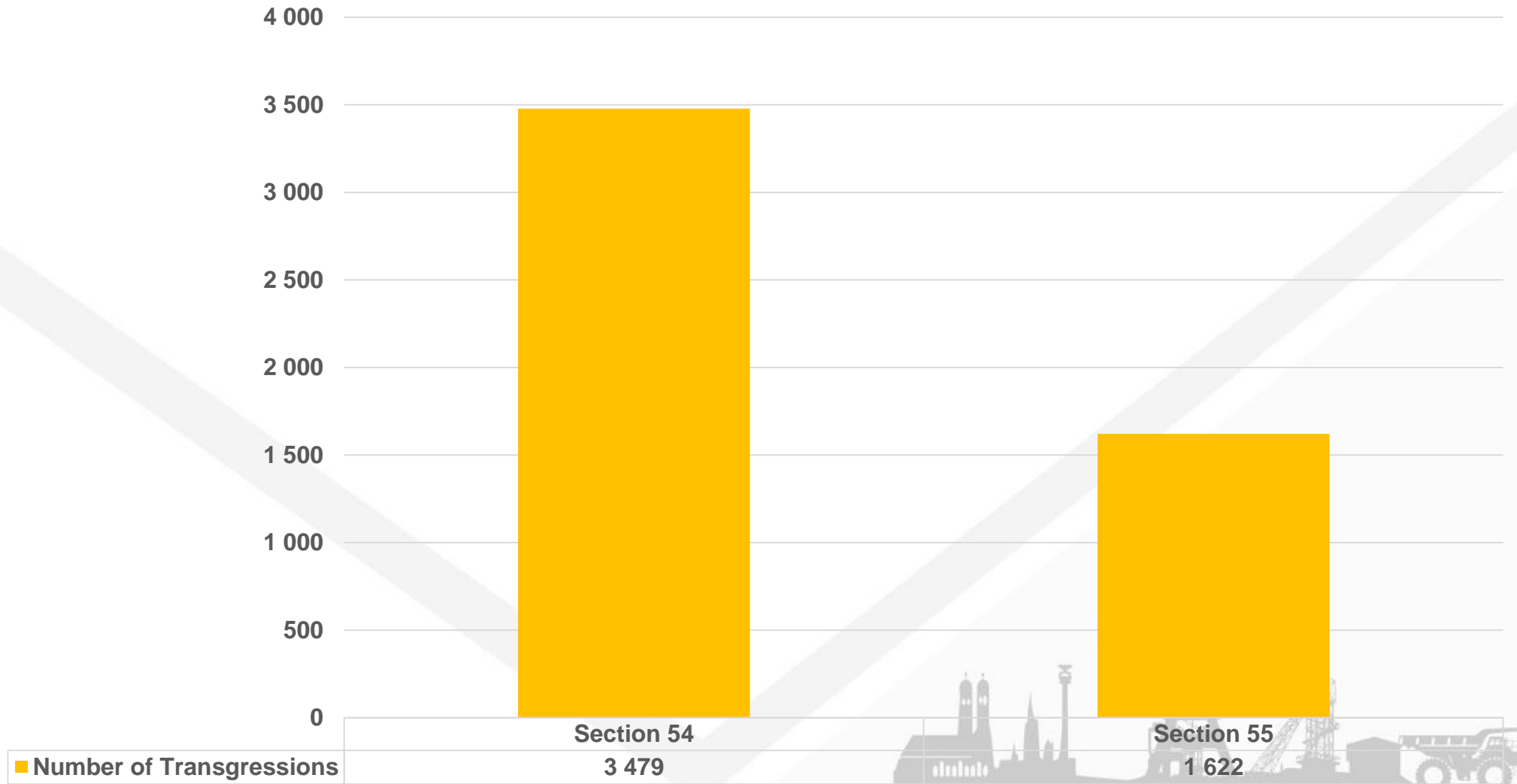
MONITORING OF COVID-19 COMPLIANCE IN THE SECTOR

- The Department engaged stakeholders including CEOs and unions of mining companies on their strategic interventions on COVID-19 as well as occupational health and safety matters.

- The DMRE continues with monitoring compliance in the mining sector.
- COVID-19 audit tool has been developed to assist inspectors during mine inspections and audits.

- A total of 8030 inspections and audits were conducted from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 to ensure compliance with the legal provisions on the mitigation and management of COVID-19.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF THE LEGAL PROVISIONS 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



KEY COVID – 19 NON-COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

- Lack of Codes of Practice (COPs) prepared in line with the Guideline.
- Inadequate consultation with organised labour when developing COPs and protocols.

- Variable testing and screening in certain mines.
- HR Policy on vulnerable employees were not finalized at certain Mines.

- Inadequate participation of Occupational Medical Practitioners and Occupational Hygienists in drafting COVID-19 related procedures.
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- PPE still a problem, instructions issued for this non compliance

COVID – 19 CASES AND VACCINATION



Global statistics

Global cases
499,214,143

Global deaths
6,203,466

Global recovered
448,796,757

RSA statistics

RSA cases
3,732,075

RSA deaths
100,096

RSA recovered
3,619,311

Testing rates by population

Global test rate
79.03%

RSA test rate
39.68%

Mining test rate
76.52%

Indicator

Number

Cases

63 918

Recovered

62 983

% Recovery

98,5%

Active Cases

186

Deaths

749

Vaccinated

337 448 (75%)

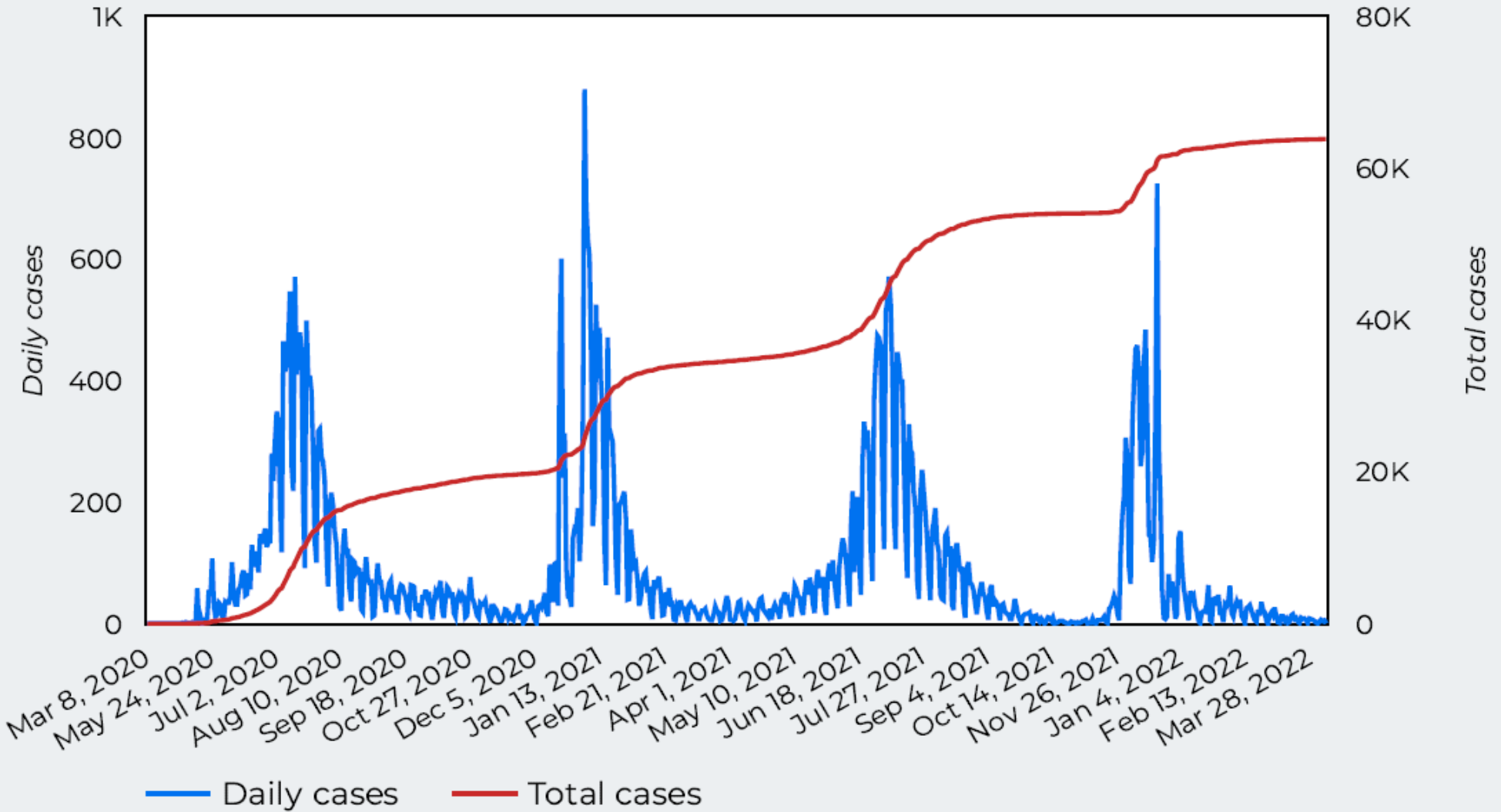


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DAILY AND TOTAL CASES DIAGNOSED



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CONCLUSION

- Dealing with COVID-19 has been an uphill battle but a lot has been learned and there is still more to learn in the future.
- The Department will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders on implementing measures for the mitigation and management of COVID-19.
- The DMRE will encourage the sector to continue with the COVID-19 vaccination rollout programme, and also assist the neighbouring communities where necessary.
- The monitoring of the mines will be maintained to ensure compliance with the legal provisions.



Thank You.



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