



SASOM INPUT FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: 2022 TO DATE

Prof Daan Kocks - Chairperson



SASOM
South African Society
of Occupational Medicine
FOUNDED IN 1948



SASOM
South African Society
of Occupational Medicine
FOUNDED IN 1948

SASOM NEEDED TO CHANGE IN THE CONFIRMATION OF A CHANGING WORLD OF COVID-19 AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

HISTORY OF SASOM



- The South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) was formed in 1948.
- SASOM is a special interest group of the South African Medical Association (SAMA) with links to the World Medical Association.
- SASOM is affiliated with the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and its 27 scientific committees.
- Members are occupational medicine practitioners and other professionals who work in occupational health with an interest in this area of medical practice.

SASOM POSITION STATEMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS DURING 2020



- Endorse the South African Thoracic Society (SATS) Position Statement on the Conduct of Lung Function Testing during the Corona Virus COVID-19 Pandemic
- Statement on Medical Records – COVID-19 Pandemic
- COVID-19 Health Care Risk Waste
- COIDA - COVID-19 Occupational Disease Legal Update and Reviewed
- Occupational Medical Examinations during the COVID -19 Epidemic
- Employer’s COVID-19 reporting duties to the National Institute for Occupational Health
- Position Statement on SATS Update Position Statement on Pulmonary Function Testing
- Position on Vaccination by Mine Employer

WEBINARS – VIRTUAL TRAINING 2020



- Mental Health & COVID-19: OMP Approach
- COVID-19 and New Normal and Ethical Constraints Queries and Solutions in Occupational Medical Practice
- Legal and Ethical Impacts of COVID-19 on the Practice of Occupational Medical Practitioners
- Cardiometabolic Risk Factors for COVID-19 Infection
- Spirometry Update
- Legal Impacts of COVID-19 specific on the Practice of Occupational Medical Practitioners
- Chronic Lung Disease and COVID-19

SASOM POSITION STATEMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS DURING 2021



- SASOM Guideline 15, titled 'Spirometry in the Workplace', was finalized and endorsed by the South African Thoracic Society (SATS).
- Contributed to a paper titled 'Work-related injuries and diseases, and COVID-19', authored by ICOH management, at the invitation of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- COVID-19 vaccination in employment
- Vaccination in employment: just do it - OSHAJournal

WEBINARS – VIRTUAL TRAINING 2021



- Introduction, quality assurance and quality control in spirometry
- Preparing for and conducting a spirometry test
- Evaluation of the test result for validity
- Interpretation, reporting and record keeping
- The overall requirements of POPIA and the resulting action plan for occupational health action plan for occupational health
- The impact of POPIA on the ‘medical record’ requirements of occupational and health legislation and the HPCSA rules
- Health Surveillance and OH Services for Health Care Workers in the COVID-19 Epidemic
- The action plan for implementation of POPIA in occupational health practices and the changes which need to be made to the occupational medicine practitioner’s PAIA Section 51 Manual

ELECTRONIC GROUP/BUNDLES SEND = 200+ IN TOTAL



- Additional responsibilities on all involved in health services in general for COVID-19-related examples:
- Clinical manifestations, risk factors, and maternal and perinatal outcomes of coronavirus disease 2019 in pregnancy: Living systematic review and meta-analysis
- Occupational medical examinations during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Survey on mental health in healthcare workers during COVID-19
- Co-morbidity factors associated with COVID-19 death in a global study of 17 million patients
- COID directive on compensation for workplace-acquired COVID-19
- SAMA guide to doctors for issuing medical certificates and letters for COVID-19- related employer and employee requests
- Electronic links - TB and COVID-19 Information from 23/11/2020 till date

INTERFASE AND LIAISON



- Interfaces in South Africa: NIOH, SASOHN, SAIOH, MMPA, SASTM
- Address the numerous questions raised by OHPs and OMPs on registering as COVID-19 vaccination providers, at the request of SASOM – Webinar NIOH
- Department of Employment and Labour Occupational Health Forum and Technical Committee
- Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations, 2022; No. 46051 - Government Gazette
- Department of National Health (NDoH) – Covid-19 Vaccinations: Occupational Health and Safety Workstream
- International Liaison with the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC)

2022 PUBLICATIONS



- Must an occupational medicine practitioner share an occupational health record with a Department of Employment and Labour inspector when so requested – OHSJ Journal,
- SASOM position statement on restarting spirometry in the occupational health setting post COVID-19 – OHSJ Journal

CONCLUSION



- Influenced other industry bodies to further occupational medicine by ensuring that the Occupational Medical Practitioner (OMP) is an independent practitioner, detached from other Occupational Health practitioners.
- SASOM and OMPs in the true sense of the word “knows” what to do when other Occupational Health practitioners not experienced in the field of occupational medicine want to perform the role.

THANK YOU

Prof. DJ Kocks
SASOM Chair

 +27 (0) 87 288 0893

 daniel.kocks@up.ac.za

 info@sasom.org

 www.sasom.org
South African Society
of Occupational Medicine
FOUNDED IN 1948

