

WEEKLY FACTSHEET #11

COVID-19: WEEK 29 JUNE - 5 JULY 2020

REGIONAL INDICATORS

SOUTH AFRICA

CONFIRMED 159 333
RECOVERED 76 025
DEATHS 2 749

ZAMBIA

CONFIRMED 1 632
RECOVERED 1 348
DEATHS 30

TANZANIA

CONFIRMED 509
RECOVERED 183
DEATHS 21

DRC

CONFIRMED 7 122
RECOVERED 1 785
DEATHS 175

IVORY COAST

CONFIRMED 9 702
RECOVERED 4 381
DEATHS 68

Source: app.powerbi.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Women make up 70% of the workers in the health and social sector globally and are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. Within the health and social sector, an average gender pay gap of 28% exists, which may be further increased in times of crises. Women health care workers need to go beyond personal protective equipment, they also include psychosocial as well as sexual reproductive health and hygiene support. Global crises present a serious threat to

women's engagement in economic activities, especially women in informal sectors such as running hair salons or vegetable stands. Women also make up the majority of domestic and care work, and the families who are reliant on their income, become particularly vulnerable during these times. Remember to use your voices to advocate for women and girls, as gender inequalities are made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Source: UNICEF

YOUTH VOICES

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

MMAKUBU PHOKWANE (MCRS) - SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION: "What will happen to a person who has HIV and now tests positive for COVID-19?"

RESPONSE: At the present time, there is no specific information about the risk of COVID-19 in people with HIV. Older adults and people of any age who have a serious underlying medical condition might be at higher risk for severe illness, including people who are immunocompromised.

The risk for people with HIV getting

very sick is greatest in:

- People with a low CD4 cell count, and
- People not on HIV treatment (antiretroviral therapy or ART).

People with HIV can also be at increased risk of getting very sick with COVID-19 based on their age and other medical conditions.

Source: Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

REFILOE MORAPEDI (AGANANG FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION: "As scientists and doctors are trying to figure out a vaccine for COVID-19, when it is found, is it going to be distributed to everyone or only to the people who are infected?"

RESPONSE: A vaccine is designed to protect people before they're exposed to a virus. A vaccine basically trains the immune system to recognize and attack the virus when it encounters it. Vaccines protect both the person who is vaccinated as well as the community. As of May 11 2020, eight candidate vaccines were being tested

in clinical trials in people around the world centered on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. Africa's first COVID-19 vaccine trial began on June 24 2020 in South Africa. The vaccine was developed at the Oxford Jenner Institute and is currently on trial in the UK, where over 4,000 participants are already enrolled into the clinical trial. The vaccine being used in the South African trial is the same as that being used in the UK and Brazil trials.

Source: Council on Foreign Relations

ZINTLE MAYABA (COSAT) - SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION: "A big question scientists are trying to answer is whether coronavirus peaks during the winter and ebbs during the summer like the flu. What should we expect as winter arrives? Will the winter weather hurt our efforts to stop the virus?"

RESPONSE: There's a seasonality to many viruses. Flu and cold viruses tend to peak in winter months, then die down with warmer weather. In winter months, people may be more indoors, increasing the number of people at risk of becoming infected by someone who's contagious. Viruses spread

through respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. And the droplets are more likely to spread under certain conditions. Droplets are better at staying afloat when the air is cold and dry. When the air is humid and warm, the droplets fall to the ground more quickly, and it makes transmission harder. But given the uncertainty, public health officials say they must plan for the unexpected and for the possibility that the outbreak drags on regardless of the weather.

Source: [Goats and Soda \(NPR\)](http://Goats and Soda (NPR))

ANNIE SAKALA - (FLAVA FM) KITWE, ZAMBIA

QUESTION: "As the number of cases is going higher and higher, what are some measures put in place for women when it comes to contraceptives? How would they collect them if we were to face a total lockdown as a nation?"

RESPONSE: Research by the United Nations, shows that the impact that COVID-19 is having on health systems is limiting the services that should be provided for women and girls. This will mean that many women and girls will choose to skip important medical checkups in fear of contracting the virus. And global supply chains may also be disrupted during a lockdown, and there could be shortages of contraceptives. When health systems

are overwhelmed, countries need to make difficult decisions to balance the demands of responding directly to COVID-19, while also giving attention to maintaining other essential health service delivery. But governments all around the world should be making sure that access to contraceptives and rights to sexual and reproductive health care should be respected regardless of COVID-19 status. Access to effective contraception is one of the most cost-effective interventions to reduce maternal mortality through preventing unintended pregnancy, which protects an individual's physical and mental health.

Source: World Health Organization

GRACE CHABU - (FLAVA FM) KITWE, ZAMBIA

QUESTION: "Based on the mask up campaign, do the masks have to be thin or thick to have effect?"

RESPONSE: While home-made masks might not be as effective as an N95 mask, having a protective filter over your face can help to block some airborne particles—which can be useful in stopping possible transmission of COVID-19. Research shows that some fabrics are better than others at filtering germs. Masks made of two layers of heavy, tightly woven cotton material (with

a thread count of at least 180) are quite effective. The best material recommended is thick cotton material—and although you are unlikely to have this at home, you can still use the thickest cotton material you can find. You can also use t-shirts, handkerchiefs or any other washable material to create your mask, even if they are less effective, they play a big role in protecting you from contracting the virus.

Source: Live Mint