

LIFE ORIENTATION: COVID-19

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



GRADE 10
Term 2: Week 3

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GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Growing Gauteng Together

Topic Overview

The local and global impact of COVID -19:

- How it affects people locally and globally?
- How it affects the provision of basic service?
- COVID-19 and issues of personal and societal hygiene

Social justice linked to COVID-19.

- **(Comorbidities)**Pre-existing medical conditions (HIV and AIDs, diabetes, heart conditions, etc.) risks.
- Effects of food shortages, poverty, unemployment crime, violence, lack of basic services on personal and community health as a result of COVID-19
- The effects of food security amidst COVID-19



The local and global impact of COVID -19:

- The [COVID-19](#) pandemic is a fundamentally social and societal event. The virus spreads between people, and impacts individuals, households and communities. Any country's response to the pandemic must be guided by data and [expertise](#). Failing to identify and address social impacts of the pandemic opens the way for devastating social damage and loss of life.
- Reliable information is key to ensuring that a functional society emerges from this pandemic, rather than one more [desperately vulnerable](#) than before. This is as true in South Africa as anywhere else in the world.



The local and global impact of COVID -19:

South Africa's government took radical action when the virus was detected in the country. Its scientists, advisors and politicians were able to draw on the experiences of other countries, combined with local data, to evaluate the risks and make enormously difficult [decisions](#). Strong containment efforts were followed with a nationwide lockdown as community transmission began to increase. Globally, South Africa's rapid and [evidence-based](#) action has been praised.

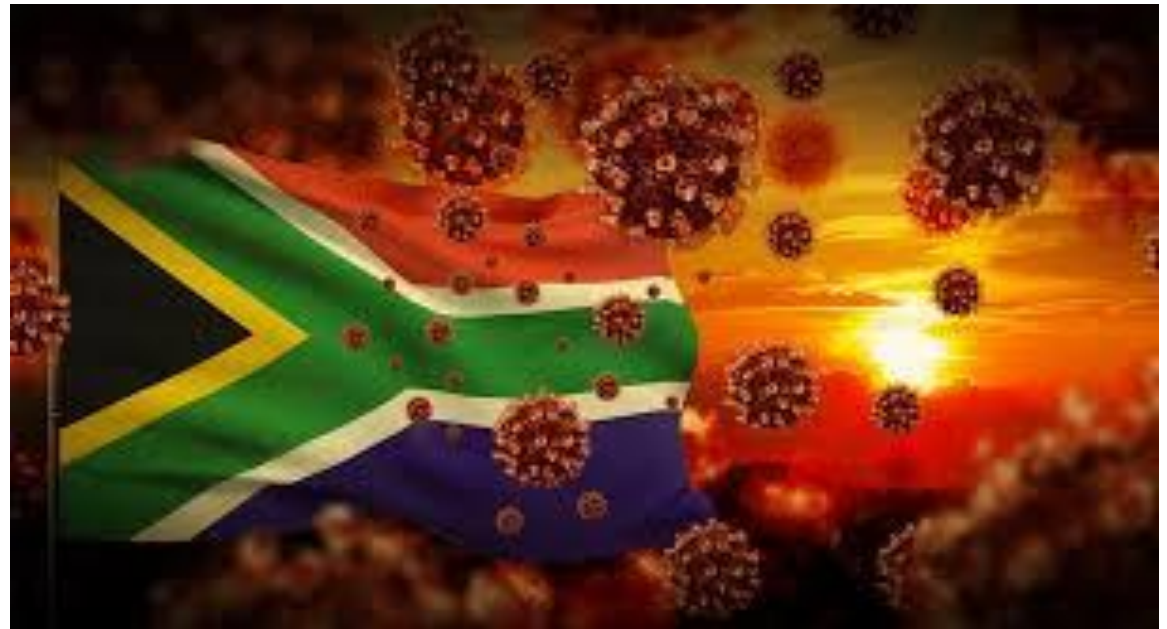
Unfortunately, this necessary strategy has come with massive [costs](#) to the poor. These social impacts will leave a legacy long after the virus itself is eventually brought under control through a vaccine or effective treatment.



The local and global impact of COVID -19:

Most visibly, the lockdown has resulted in:

- A rise in levels of hunger
- Household incomes being affected
- Nutritious food more difficult to access
- Unemployment
- Interruptions to public health programmes
- Loss of access to education
- Loss of access to other child support services
- Growing challenges mental health
- Increased gender based violence



How COVID affects provision of basic services

- The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for access to adequate housing, and safe and sufficient water and sanitation for all.
- With the lockdown conditions only slightly reduced and most stringent regulations remaining in place, the deep impact on people's lives continues.
- Now is the time for the government to work on long-term plans to guarantee that sufficient resources are allocated, in order to ensure that all human rights are upheld for the remainder of the lockdown as well as beyond the pandemic.



How COVID affect provision of basic services

- Transparent communication is needed and information regarding which communities water is being delivered to, the distance needed to travel to access water, and how much water is being distributed.
- The government must remain accountable to its commitments, including ensuring municipalities monitor water levels, so that individuals have access to sufficient, safe and reliable water each day, and are able to regularly wash their hands with soap.
- Progressive, so that equitable access to sufficient, safe and reliable water becomes a reality for all, even beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The government is obligated by national and international laws and standards to deliver on the right to water and sanitation.

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal
SAcoronavirus.co.za



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COVID-19 and issues of personal and societal hygiene

The SMT and non-teaching staff must ensure that handwashing basins and/or sanitisers are placed at the entrance of every classroom and at other strategic points. The phased-in approach for the return of learners prescribe that Grade 12 and Grade 7 learners will be the first to return to school. It is important to practice social distancing and good hygiene at school to prevent becoming infected. All learners in Grade 12 and Grade 7 (except those who are ill) must report to schools.

The following key activities will take place on arrival of learners:

- The principal and teachers conduct the orientation of learners on the management of COVID-19 at school.
- Agree on **Safety And Hygiene Procedures** at school. Learners must wash hands before and after school-meals, be served meals in classrooms and observe social distancing during meals, while seated. Discuss hygiene in the bathrooms and toilets. Ensure sanitiser at the exit and entrances.
- Orientate learners on the curriculum recovery plan, including what access they can get to extra tuition classes and home learning resources.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COVID-19 and issues of personal and societal hygiene

- COVID-19 has shown its potential devastating impact elsewhere, but it is a particular cause for concern in South Africa. First, while public health strategies such as social distancing and regular hand washing are encouraged, such strategies are a privilege many cannot afford in the crowded informal settlements that accounted for 13% of all households, many of which may not have access to running water.



**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT CORONAVIRUS**

 **There is no need to panic**

 Not everyone who gets the virus becomes very sick

 Good personal hygiene can protect you and your family

Social justice linked to COVID-19.

- Second, the high rate of TB and HIV among the population, in addition to the number of those not on treatment for HIV, have led to concerns that this could impact the severity of COVID-19 in South Africa and make its population more susceptible to the virus.



Social justice linked to COVID-19.

Third, while health systems in high income countries are being stretched, most South Africans rely on the public health care system that is under-resourced and will struggle to meet the demand of the epidemic. While the virus does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex or borders, it is likely that it will disproportionately affect the poor and those suffering from other co-morbidities.



Pre-existing medical conditions (Comorbidities)

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.**

Conditions and Other Risk Factors

- Asthma
- Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Haemoglobin Disorders
- Immunocompromised
- Liver Disease
- People aged 65 years and older
- People in nursing home or long-term care facilities
- Serious heart conditions
- Severe obesity



Pre-existing medical conditions (Comorbidities)

The successful management of comorbidities depends on the type of condition the person has. It is therefore imperative that vulnerable residents take extra precautions. Staying home is the best way to reduce the risk of infection, strictly abide by the golden, including frequent hand-washing and other hygiene measures and keeping a distance of at least 1.5 metres from any other person.

We also call upon the broader society to assist in protecting these vulnerable groups by keeping their distance and offering to do tasks for them that require them to go into public.

Tips to manage comorbidities to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection:

- Avoid gatherings (crowded places) by staying at home
- Continue with your treatment
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle and eating habits, exercise regularly
- Reduce personal exposure to tobacco smoke
- Control your blood pressure
- Wear a cloth mask and always follow the golden rules of good hygiene (a mask alone is not enough).



The effects of food security amidst COVID-19

Effects of food shortages, poverty, unemployment crime, violence, lack of basic services on personal and community health as a result of COVID-19

- Apart from its devastating impact on the economy, the lockdown has suppressed some major types of crime and inspired a surge in some others. But above all, the lockdown has translated into a sharp increase in national levels of poverty and malnutrition. However essential the lockdown is to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
- As the lockdown enters its second month, there is some good news to report. Compared with the same period in 2019, violent crimes have [dropped sharply](#) across South Africa.



The effects of food security amidst COVID-19

The vast majority of South Africans among the working poor and the unemployed—and in particular their children—have no income now because of the lockdown and no reserves to reach into to buy food. Those who work in casual employment or in the informal sector are now unemployed. South Africa already had a high unemployment rate at [29 percent in early 2020](#). Now even larger numbers are unable to provide for themselves and their families.



INFORMAL ASSESSMENT

1. Define the term 'social' issue. 2
2. When looking at the list of local and global impacts of COVID, which FOUR have affected you the most? Justify your answer. 8
3. Why has there been an increase in gender-based violence? 4
4. How does COVID affect provision of basic services? 4
5. How does COVID affect the following groups of people?
 - 5.1 The poor 4
 - 5.2 People with comorbidities 4