

Annexure A1



**DIRECTOR-GENERAL HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRETORIA**

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Dr D Motau
Head of Department
Private Bag X227
BLOEMFONTEIN
9300

Dear Dr Motau

RE: REQUEST TO PUT COVID-19 FIELD HOSPITALS ON HOLD

Nearly 580,000 cases of COVID-19 have now been recorded in South Africa accompanied by a great deal of stress and suffering behind these statistics. Currently the essential elements that we are focussing on is to address the surge in the number of COVID-19 cases foreseen that will put strain on our resources. In view of the decline in the infection rate new measures have to be adopted to ensure that the COVID-19 infection rate continue to decline and as such the position on field hospitals need to be reviewed.

The COVID-19 daily new infection rate appeared to have stabilized and only 6 275 new daily infections were recorded in the country during the last 24-hour reporting cycle. In addition, the recovery rate has also gone up to 75%. This is releasing beds in existing hospitals and other facilities established for COVID-19 patients, opening space for new COVID-19 patients. However, if we do not see a change in behavior by wearing masks, infections could surge again at a much higher rate.

We have put emphasis in creating surge capacity at hospitals, fever tents with triage, the creation of isolation wards and the establishment of field hospitals to accommodate the peak demand that we were expecting. However, indications are that we have reached the peak in the first phase of the pandemic and that such extreme measures are no longer required. Sufficient capacity exists in province to deal with the demands.

Since the urgency to create additional space is no longer there, the approach followed up to now in creating field hospitals have been reconsidered. At the moment, the existing facilities can accommodate the new COVID-19 cases.

In line with the above, all provinces are hereby instructed to stop, with immediate effect all work on field hospitals that are in planning, design and procurement. If contracts have been awarded and no work has started, the cost benefit in terminating the contracts or other option analysis is to be considered. No further new work is to be undertaken.

Kind Regards



Dr. SSS Buthelezi

Director-General: Health

Date: 26/08/2020



health

Department of
Health
FREE STATE PROVINCE

FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DECOMMISSIONING TEMPORARY FACILITIES

Free State Department of Health adopts the Hospital Preparation Action Plan 15 – Decommissioning Temporary Facilities for all Surge Capability Sites. This Plan talks to the following Facilities:

- Bloemfontein Showgrounds (Field Hospital) – 648 beds
- Universitas Academic Hospital - House Idhalia – 52 beds
- Universitas Academic Hospital - Underground Parking – 103 beds
- MANCOFS – Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital – 103 beds
- Bongani Regional Hospital – Old Nursing Home Hall – 100 beds

The first phase of the decommissioning plan is Bloemfontein Showgrounds at the end of the lease period which will be end November 2020.

This Plan hinges on the Free State Province not experiencing COVID-19 resurgence.

Dr. D Motau
Head: Health
Free State Province

Date: 03/09/2020