



Covid-19 Regulatory Update

 **Lexinfo**
Library & Legal Information Consultants

Covid-19 Regulatory Update: 28 May 2020

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Index to Covid-19 regulations and notices: <https://juta.co.za/covid-19-legislation-update/2020/05/21/index/>

Lexinfo Practice Management Alert



Practice Management Alert

 **Lexinfo**
Library & Legal Information Consultants

This newsletter is published bi-monthly and focuses on issues such as client care, innovation, legal technology, management, leadership, remote working, work-life balance, knowledge management, libraries, succession, management, skills development, artificial intelligence, human resources, libraries, marketing and branding.

The latest edition, March to April 2020, is now available. This edition contains valuable references to various international resources and case studies on the challenges and possible solutions for legal practices in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The March to April 2020 edition can be purchased for only R99 including VAT.

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CONFIRMED CASES

Media Release

Western Cape. Premier Alan Winde. Update on the coronavirus by Premier Alan Winde - 27 May 2020.

“As of 1pm on 27 May, the Western Cape has 7 660 active cases of Covid-19, with a total of 16 551 confirmed cases and 8 504 recoveries.

Total confirmed Covid-19 cases: 16 551

Total recoveries: 8 504

Total deaths: 387

Total active cases (currently infected patients): 7 660

Total number of tests: 133 489

Hospital admissions: 660 of which 182 are in ICU or high care”

<https://coronavirus.westerncape.gov.za/news/update-coronavirus-premier-alan-winde-27-may>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. COVID-19 infections spike to 24 264.

2020 May 27 SA News

“As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rises to 24 264, the country is working around the clock to ramp up its testing capacity. However, South Africa is now faced with the challenge of a shortage of test kits -- a problem not unique to the country. “As a country, we are now facing a challenge with the global shortage of testing reagents. We understand it is becoming a challenge to many other countries,” said Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, on Tuesday. The Minister said South Africa is in an urgent drive to source stock from around the world. In the COVID-19 context, a reagent is a chemical used in a lab to test patient swab samples to determine whether a person is infected or not.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-infections-spike-24-264>

Report

Groundup and Spotlight. COVID-19 Report 5: Spike in Cape Town natural deaths. 27 May 2020.

<https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2020/05/27/covid-19-report-5-spike-in-cape-town-natural-deaths/>

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EDUCATION

Media Comment

Cruywagen, Vincent. Legal opposition to opening schools on hold, pending gazetting by Angie Motshekga.

2020 May 28 Daily Maverick

“Parents Against Opening of Schools have opted to abandon an application to challenge Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga’s decision to allow Grade 12 and Grade 7 learners to return to classrooms on Monday 1 June.

Venessa le Roux, founder of the organisation, said the decision to delay litigation was because Motshekga had not yet gazetted the decision. In these circumstances, an application would have been premature, said Le Roux.”

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-28-legal-opposition-to-opening-schools-on-hold-pending-gazetting-by-angie-motshekga/>

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EMPLOYMENT LAW

Media Release

Department of Employment and Labour. Employment and Labour apologises for delay in capturing May UIF Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS claims. 27 May 2020.

“UIF apologises for delay in capturing May claims as a result of freak break of fibre connectivity. The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) apologises for the freak break in its network which has affected plans to capture the May Covid-19 TERS online applications...“We would like to apologise to all our stakeholders and particularly our clients for this unfortunate turn of events and the resultant delays. We are doing everything in our power to ensure that the problem is resolved today so that we can start processing May applications immediately. The fault of connectivity in Pretoria is due to a damaged fibre cable that links the UIF to the SITA’s datacenter”, said the UIF Commissioner Teboho Maruping.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-apologises-delay-capturing-may-uif-coronavirus-covid-19-TERS-claims>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. UIF pays out R15bn.

2020 May 27 SA News

“The Department of Employment and Labour says the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) has to date paid in excess of R15 billion to beneficiaries -- marking a historic first in terms of a lump sum paid out by the Fund within five weeks. On 16 April, the Fund paid the first batch of COVID-19 Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) benefits to employers on behalf of workers. The COVID-19 TERS benefits were necessitated by the global breakout of Coronavirus, resulting in the shutting down of economies due to the introduction of stringent nationwide lockdown measures in a bid to contain the spread of the virus. The UIF experienced a remarkable spike in the number of applications resulting from loss of income and employment due to trading restrictions.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/uif-pays-out-r15bn>

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Internet Article

Postman, Zoë. Covid-19: court to rule on reclaimers' right to work: Lockdown directive unconstitutional, argues Lawyers for Human Rights.

2020 May 28 Groundup

“In an urgent application, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) has asked the North Gauteng High Court to declare the lockdown directive which requires reclaimers to apply to municipalities for a work permit unconstitutional and invalid.”

<https://www.groundup.org.za/article/covid-19-court-to-rule-on-reclaimers-right-to-work/>

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FINANCIAL LAW / RELIEF FUNDS

Media Release

Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. Free State Small Business Development calls for Free State enterprises to queue for relief funds. 27 May 2020.

“The onset of Covid-19 and the National lockdown from 27 March 2020 has had devastating impact on the economy with the township economy being one of the biggest casualties. The recovery of the economy, many economists say, we can only be assured with state intervention. To this end, relevant national departments put together relief funds to support SMMEs that took the knock during the restrictions of trade. National Department of Tourism came up with Tourism Relief funds to the total value of R200 million capped at R50 000 once off assistance per entity. For more information on this fund the Tourism Relief Fund enterprises should visit www.tourism.gov.za. SMMEs can submit funding applications by completing a form accessible online at

www.tourism.gov.za/Pages/COVID19tourismrelieffund.aspx before the 31 of May 2020.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-small-business-development-calls-free-state-enterprises-queue-relief-funds-27>

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HOUSING / HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Media Release

Western Cape Human Settlements. Western Cape Human Settlements on Forest Village housing project recipients. 27 May 2020.

“Today, Western Cape Human Settlements Minister, Tertuis Simmers, handed over 50 houses to beneficiaries, to residents from Wards 16, 17, 108 and 114, as part of the Forest Village Housing Development in Eersteriver. This is the first of the 267 beneficiaries that will be moving into the development within the next few weeks. Minister Simmers said: “It brought me great joy to see the happiness on the faces of the beneficiaries today. We regard all handovers as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our people and their families. Today and all future handovers is undoubtedly assisting in combatting COVID-19, as it ensures and strengthens social distancing, while also helping to improve hygiene practices. I’m also looking forward to handing over more houses in this community, as well as the rest of the province.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-human-settlements-forest-village-housing-project-recipients-27-may-2020-0000>

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LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Media Statement

LPC Western Cape offices closed due to COVID-19 case. 27 May 2020

"The Legal Practice Council would like to inform all legal practitioners in the Western Cape that an employee has tested positive to COVID-19 at the Cape Town office....The Cape Town office will close from tomorrow and reopen on 4 June 2020."

<https://lpc.org.za/lpc-western-cape-offices-closed-due-to-covid-19-case/>

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LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

Internet Article

De Vos, Pierre. Are we fighting about who will get the best sun chairs on the deck of the Titanic while the iceberg is looming in the distance?

2020 May 27 Constitutionally Speaking

"Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the government currently wields enormous power with limited checks in place. As is always the case in a democracy, citizens have a pivotal role to play during the crisis to keep the government honest and to check the autocratic tendencies of some members of the executive. But are we doing our bit?"

<https://constitutionallyspeaking.co.za/are-we-fighting-about-who-will-get-the-best-sun-chairs-on-the-deck-of-the-titanic-while-the-iceberg-is-looming-in-the-distance/>

Media Comment

Nortier, Christi. Still no final word on Level 3 details, SANDF clears soldiers of lockdown killing, and cigarette ban defended in court papers.

2020 May 27 Daily Maverick

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-27-still-no-final-word-on-level-3-details-sandf-clears-soldiers-of-lockdown-killing-and-cigarette-ban-defended-in-court-papers/>

Media Releases

Department of Health. Health on determination of alert levels for Coronavirus Covid-19 hotspots. 27 May 2020.

"Clarity has been sought on the presentation made by the Minister of Health to the NCOP yesterday regarding the determination of alert levels for hotspots. An old slide was presented stating hotspots would remain at level 4. That slide is now outdated and was inadvertently included in a presentation that had been updated. The slide was part of a presentation previously done by health department prior to the NCCC resolving on the final approach to be adopted for the country, which was subsequently announced by His Excellency, President MC Ramaphosa. This note seeks to clarify the enquiries received. Firstly, as announced by President MC Ramaphosa on the 24th May 2020, we confirm that the whole country will move to Alert Level 3 on the 1st June 2020. Further to that, government has taken measures to identify areas that have been defined as epidemiological hotspots."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-determination-alert-levels-coronavirus-covid-19-hotspots%C2%A027-may-2020-0000>

Government Communications. National Coronavirus Command Council postpones media briefing on Coronavirus Covid-19 Level 3 Lockdown Regulations. 27 May 2020.

"The National Coronavirus Command Council, media briefing on the regulations relating to the COVID-19 Level 3 restrictions scheduled for today, 27 May 2020 at 12h30 and the briefing by the social cluster scheduled for 18h00 have been postponed. Media will be advised on a new date and time in due course."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/nccc-postponement-media-briefing-coronavirus-covid-19-level-3-lockdown-regulations-27-may>

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Media Comment

Rabkin, Franny. SANDF inquiry clears soldiers of the death of Collins Khosa.

2020 May 27 Mail & Guardian

<https://mg.co.za/news/2020-05-27-sandf-inquiry-clears-soldiers-of-the-death-of-collins-khosa/>

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Media Release

South African Social Security Agency. SASSA on faster payments of Coronavirus Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress grants due to Lockdown Level 3 implementation. 27 May 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/sassa-faster-payments-coronavirus-covid-19-social-relief-distress-grants-due-lockdown-level>

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Comments

Thebus, Shakirah. Grand Parade's informal traders take City of Cape Town to court.

2020 May 27 IOL

“Non-profit public interest law centre Legal Resources Centre (LRC), representing the informal traders, has filed an urgent application on behalf of the United Traders Association, calling for trading to resume at the Grand Parade”

<https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/grand-parades-informal-traders-take-city-of-cape-town-to-court-48567127>

Williams, Murray. Some hairdressers 'living hand to mouth', court hears in bid to reopen salons.

2020 May 27 News24

“An urgent bid to the court heard on Wednesday is seeking the go-ahead for hairdressers to trade under strict conditions during the lockdown.

According to advocate Carlo Viljoen, almost 600 hairdressers in South Africa have pleaded for urgent food supplies - "to actually eat" - from information he had gleaned in the build-up to the case.”

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/some-hairdressers-living-hand-to-mouth-court-hears-in-bid-to-reopen-salons-20200527>

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WATER & SANITATION

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. Condolences to family of baby killed in water tank accident.

2020 May 27 SA News

“Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has conveyed her sincere condolences to the family of a 20-month-old baby who lost his life in an accident involving a water tanker contracted to Rand Water. Rand Water is an entity of the Department of Water and Sanitation. According to a report, the truck was delivering water as part of COVID-19 interventions to provide portable water at Lethabong informal settlement in the City of Tshwane when the accident happened. “To the family and neighbours of the deceased, we cannot imagine what you are going through. Your loss is our loss. We wish you strength as you come to terms with what has happened. Our sincere condolences,” Sisulu said.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/condolences-family-baby-killed-water-tank-accident>

SA Government News Agency. KZN boosts water supply.

2020 May 27 SA News

“The Department of Water and Sanitation in KwaZulu-Natal has ramped up its water and hygiene products supply to communities, as a means of curbing the spread of COVID-19 in the province. According to the provincial department, to date, 4 200 water storage tanks and 532 water tankers have been distributed to various district and local municipalities in the province. “Distribution of water tanks in KwaZulu-Natal is done jointly with the provincial Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as well as Umgeni and Mhlathuze Water Boards.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/kzn-boosts-water-supply>

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