

Covid-19 Regulatory Update

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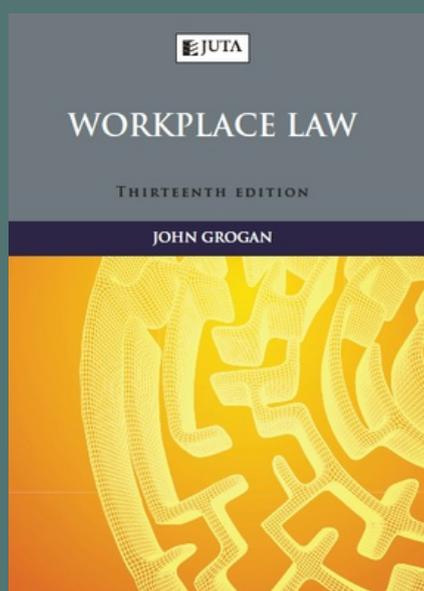
Covid-19 Regulatory Update: 19 June 2020

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

New: Thirteenth edition Workplace Law by John Grogan



The thirteenth edition of the well-known *Workplace Law* by John Grogan will be available soon.

The publisher's website provides the following information on the book:

"First published in 1996, *Workplace Law* has become one of the most widely used and frequently quoted text books on South African labour law. This 13th edition has been revised and supplemented to incorporate the latest case law, as well as the latest amendments to labour legislation.

Workplace Law provides a complete overview of issues that have arisen and are likely to arise on the shop floor, in court and in arbitration proceedings – from unfair labour practices, through employment equity, dismissal and collective bargaining, to strikes. Students, HR and IR practitioners, lawyers, employers, employees and trade union officials will find this updated, comprehensive and reliable work a convenient and indispensable guide to a complex and fascinating area of law. *Workplace Law* is also available in electronic form in Juta's Labour Law Library, where it is updated quarterly."

The printed edition can be pre-ordered from our Book Supply Service. The price is R895.00 including Vat but excluding delivery. Email books@lexinfo.co.za to order your copy.

CONFIRMED CASES

Media Comment

South African Government. Level 3 Lockdown in numbers – 17 June 2020, 18 Jun 2020.

- “Over 100 – days since the first case of COVID-19 was identified in South Africa, by 17 June 2020.
- 1 674 – people who have died in South Africa by 17 June 2020.
- 80 412 – confirmed cases in South Africa by 17 June 2020 since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19.
- 44 331 (55%) – people who have recovered by 17 June 2020.
- 34 407 – active COVID-19 cases in the country by 17 June 2020.
- 2 – the number of days infections were doubling in the three weeks prior to the implementation of the nationwide lockdown.....”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/level-3-lockdown-numbers-%E2%80%93-17-june-2020-18-jun-2020-0000>

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EDUCATION

Media Comments

Jordaan, Nomahlubi. Government's decision to reopen schools with businesses, not a coincidence: Mmusi Maimane's lawyers.

“The government’s decision to reopen schools at the same time as businesses, was not a coincidence but a plan to relieve parents of their duty to care for their children so they could assist in its main objective to “reopen the economy”. This is One South Africa Movement leader Mmusi Maimane’s argument before the Pretoria high court. Maimane and his organisation, as first and second applicant respectively, are challenging the reopening of schools under level 3 of the lockdown, which came into effect on June 1.”

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2020-06-19-governments-decision-to-reopen-schools-with-businesses-not-a-coincidence-mmusi-maimanes-lawyers/>

Maphanga, Canny and Ngqakamba, Sesona. Union to appeal judgment that struck attempt to halt reopening of schools off the roll.

2020 Jun 18 News24

- “A teachers' union has filed papers to appeal a judgment in its bid to halt the reopening of schools.
- The High Court previously struck the case off the roll due to a lack of urgency.
- The union wants schools to reopen in September when winter has ended.”

<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/union-to-appeal-judgment-that-struck-attempt-to-halt-reopening-of-schools-off-the-roll-20200618>

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HAIRDRESSING AND PERSONAL CARE INDUSTRY

Media Comment

DA not backing down on hairdressers court wrangle.

2020 Jun 18 IOL

“ The DA on Thursday said despite President Cyril Ramaphosa’s announcement that personal care services such as hairdressers will be permitted to operate during the coronavirus lockdown, the party will continue to pursue its court case until the regulations for the industry are published and a firm date is given for them to reopen.”

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/da-not-backing-down-on-hairdressers-court-wrangle-49556261>

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Internet Article

GroundUp and Spotlight staff. Covid-19 Report 7: Life-saving drug is good news but no time to pop champagne, 18 June 2020.

“Also:

- Four suggestions for improving peer review, and South African death data;
- Dexamethasone study is good news but caution necessary.
- Four suggestions for improving peer review in the wake of high-profile retractions.
- How deadly is SARS-CoV-2?

This is issue 7 of Covid-19 Report. We point you to the latest quality science on the pandemic.

A randomised controlled clinical trial, Recovery, has found that the steroid dexamethasone reduces the risk of death. In this [UK study](#), at 28 days the death rate of the 4,321 patients receiving “usual care alone” was 41% for those who required ventilation, 25% for those requiring oxygen only and 13% for those who did not require any respirator intervention.... The drug is not too expensive: a pack of ten 4mg injections (not quite the right dose) is priced at less than R150 in the private sector. By contrast remdesivir, a drug that has been found to reduce the length of Covid-19 illness, is not yet generally available in South Africa and is expected to be priced much higher. Another promising drug to look out for is mavrilimumab. A [preliminary study](#) published in The Lancet found that people taking this drug have better outcomes. But a randomised clinical trial is needed to confirm this result.

<https://www.groundup.org.za/article/covid-19-report-7-life-saving-drug-good-news-no-time-pop-champagne/>

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LOCKDOWN

Media Comment

Evans, Jenni. Level 3 regulations still in force, says lawyer about De Beer judgment.

2020 Jun 18 IOL

“A lawyer briefing the Western Cape legislature on the court judgment that declared the lockdown regulations irrational and unconstitutional warned Level 3 lockdown regulations still apply until an appeal court decides otherwise.”

<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/level-3-regulations-still-in-force-says-lawyer-about-de-beer-judgment-20200618>

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Media Comment

Ellis, Estelle. Refugees and asylum seekers in SA must get Covid-19 grant, court orders

2020 Jun 19 Daily Maverick

The Pretoria High Court has ordered that the R350 Covid-19 social relief of distress grant be extended to asylum seekers as well as special permit holders.

Judge Selby Baqwa made the order after hearing legal argument on Thursday.

The court declared directions issued by Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu unconstitutional and unlawful in as far as it had excluded asylum seekers, refugees and special permit holders from accessing the grant.”

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-06-19-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-sa-must-get-covid-19-grant-court-orders/>

Media Release

South African Social Security Agency. SASSA declines un-qualifying Coronavirus COVID-19 Grant Applications, 18 Jun 2020.

“The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is in receipt of numerous grievances with regards to declined R350 grant applications. Some applications have been declined as they did not meet the criteria. For one to qualify for the COVID-19 grant they must be either unemployed without any kind of income, or not receiving any kind of government assistance such as UIF and NSFAS, or social grants or any other financial support and must be above the age of 18. The majority of declined applications are from people already on the UIF database or qualifying to receive it. In this case the applicants are advised to contact the Department of Employment and Labour to either apply for UIF or follow up with their applications. SASSA verifies all applications by matching their data with other public and private databases to eliminate possibilities of double-dipping, so that only deserving applicants receive this financial aid.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/sassa-declines-un-qualifying-covid-19-grant-applications-18-jun-2020-0000>

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Release

KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube on Coronavirus Covid-19 KwaZulu-Natal Economic and Business Impact Assessment Report, 18 Jun 2020.

“All the members of the KZN Economic Council have noted with a high level of concern the report which shows the devastating impact of COVID-19.

In particular, we have noted that 30.5% both employers - employees are experiencing mental health issues such as anxiety and despair.

We further noted the following:

- At 45, 7 % - employees and staffing levels are severely affected to the extent that salary cut had to be introduced. Employees have been temporarily laid off;
- 29, 7% - employees have been required to take paid leave. Wages remained normal only through UIF TERS support;
- Decline in demand for products and services by 90%, during COVID-19 Level 5 and 4 in KZN resulting in reduced cash flow and inability to meet operational costs and fixed asset repayments;
- Reduced sustainability of business with 14.5% going into liquidation /mothballing during the period of the survey.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/sitting-kzn-economic-council-18-jun-2020-0000>

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