



71407 Rolihlahla Street
Kanana, Zone 12 Ext 1, SEBOKENG
GAUTENG, 1983
Cell: 073 614 5127/079 096 6615
Email: secretariat@saastec.co.za
Web: www.saastec.co.za

SAASTEC COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) Communique

As the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread, it is SAASTEC's duty to join government and other organisations to encourage all our members to take heed of measures that have been put in place to reduce and control the spread of this pandemic. One of our key objective as Science and Technology centres/organisations is to create awareness and engage the publics in science and technology matters. We are therefore encouraging you to make use of various platforms to educate our society about the virus. We strongly encourage you to put in place prevention measures in your facilities for the sake of your visitors and staff. The following can be amongst the measures to be taken into consideration:

- Regular cleaning and disinfection of touched objects and surfaces, e.g. shared copy machines, door handles, telephones, computers, copy machines, exhibits etc.
- Educate and ensure your staff comply with WHO prevention tips
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, substitute handshakes for a smile ☺, don't share eating utensils or cups
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Take care of your emotional health, get sleep, limit media exposure to few trusted sources, meditate, exercise, eat well and boost your body's immune system, *more tips can be found here:* <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Stay healthy!

Yours Faithfully,

SAASTEC Board of Directors

Directors: D. Motsapi (Chair), A. Dusrath, D Maubane, , S. Mathebe, S Mthembu, P. Mutshena, K. Pheeha & S. Rikhotso.

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