



**THE HONOURABLE MEC
WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Dear Dr N Mbombo

**EXEMPTION OF PRIVATE HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS (PHEs) FROM CERTAIN REGULATIONS – COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

1. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for an integrated health system response within the Western Cape Province, the Health MEC and stakeholders met on 18 March 2020 to explore possibilities and options related to pulling both public and private health care resources together.
2. It emanated from the meeting that processes related to licensing of PHEs will need to be temporarily altered in order to allow for private bed and service capacity to be increased accordingly within shorter lengths of time.
3. As such, the Department wishes to propose for MEC's endorsement that a temporary exemption of PHEs from certain regulations of Provincial Notice 187 (PN 187) and temporary departure from existing license conditions be granted in order to achieve the required bed and service capacity as in point 2 above.
4. This is a temporary measure in response to the current pandemic. All license conditions will revert back to normal when the pandemic is declared resolved.
5. Should MEC be in agreement with this proposal, kindly review and sign the attached correspondence which will be circulated to all PHEs within the Western Cape Province.

Yours sincerely,

**DR BETH ENGELBRECHT
HEAD: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT**

2020-03-23

DATE



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REFERENCE: Exemption of PHEs

ENQUIRIES: Dr Douglas Newman-Valentine

EMAIL: Douglas.Newman@westerncape.gov.za

TEL: 021 483 5417

DEAR STAKEHOLDER / HOSPITAL MANAGER / CLIENT

RE: EXEMPTION OF PHEs FROM CERTAIN REGULATIONS – COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. In the current context of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Department of Health (the Department) is putting appropriate response measures in place for this pandemic. It is important to pull together all health resources (public and private) within the Western Cape.
2. In line with this, and in terms of regulation 2(2) of Provincial Notice 187 (PN187) I hereby exempt private health establishments (PHEs) from the following Regulations:
 - Regulation 4; Application for registration and registration certificate
 - Regulation 5; Department obtaining additional information
 - Regulation 6; Publication and comments
 - Regulation 7; Advisory committee
 - Regulation 9; Consideration of the application
 - Regulation 10; Committee's recommendation
 - Regulation 11; Head of Department's decision on application
 - Regulation 13; Submission of building plans
 - Regulation 14; Approval of building plans
 - Regulation 15; Commencement of building activities
 - Regulation 16; Certificate of Registration for private health establishment
 - Regulation 17; Amendment of Certificate of Registration
 - Regulation 18; Display of Certificate of Registration
 - Regulation 19; Inspections of private health establishments
 - Regulation 20; Carrying out of inspections by duly authorised inspecting officers
3. This is a temporary measure in response to the current pandemic. All license conditions will revert back to normal when the pandemic is declared resolved.

4. For this period and until further notice, the process for creating additional capacity in line with the response to the pandemic will be as follows:
 - a. The Department hereby issues an approval for a temporary departure by PHEs from existing license conditions to accommodate increasing capacity requirements for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - b. The PHE's departure from existing license conditions must be aligned with and in collaboration with the Department to develop an integrated health system response to Covid-19 within the Western Cape province.
5. All existing approvals with deadlines relating to Provincial Notice 187 ie; submission of building plans, visible building etc. will not be enforced during the current pandemic and will be followed up when the pandemic is resolved.
6. Should you have any further queries with respect to the application process, kindly contact the Licensing Unit on 021-483 5811 / 3303.

Kind regards



DR NOMAFRENCH MBOMBO

MINISTER OF HEALTH: WESTERN CAPE

DATE:

2020/03/26

