



Circular H35/2020

TO ALL SMS MEMBERS/ CHIEF DIRECTORATES / DIRECTORATES / REGIONAL / DISTRICT OFFICES, SUB-STRUCTURES / ALL FACILITY MANAGERS/ CITY OF CAPE TOWN / HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS / PRIVATE SECTOR

Dear Colleagues

During this global COVID-19 pandemic it is heartening how everyone is working together to stop the transmission and care for those who have contracted the disease. Our greatest asset in the battle is you, all our health staff, and you must keep yourself healthy to enable you to look after our patients and your families. To do this please wash your hands regularly, clean and disinfect surfaces, and wherever possible keep a social distance of at least 1 metre from people. Of course, when caring for patients we have to be in direct contact with them and it is in this situation that we must all wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE). Each situation staff may be placed in has a different risk of exposure, so clear precise PPE guidelines have been developed to ensure that the most appropriate and effective PPE is used by staff in each situation. The guidelines are attached.

Our second greatest asset is the actual PPE. Our stocks of PPE are sufficient if we use them carefully and don't waste any PPE. It is very important to conserve our PPE supplies and only use them in situations where they are actually needed. We absolutely must wear PPE when we need to, but we must wear the correct PPE for each situation we are in. We must not use PPE when it is unnecessary to do so. PPE stocks will then be preserved to ensure the safety of everyone. Take care of yourselves and we will beat COVID-19.

Yours Sincerely

**DR E ENGELBRECHT
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: HEALTH
DATE: 2020/03/26**