



**ATTENTION: HEADS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ECD CENTRES AND SERVICES
ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING ECD SERVICES
ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN ECD SECTOR**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) CENTRES AND PARTIAL CARE TO
REMAIN CLOSED UNDER COVID-19 LEVEL 4 LOCK DOWN**

1. On the 15th March 2020 the President declared national state of disaster as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and issued a directive that ALL South Africans should be on level 5 lock down for a period of 21 days to curb the spread of pandemic.
2. Subsequent to that, the President extended the period of level 5 lock down with 14 days to save lives; and urged ALL South Africans to intensify precautionary measures as the numbers of infected people were increasing on a daily basis.
3. On the 23rd April 2020 the President addressed the nation and outlined the approach with 5 levels that determines the measures that should be in place based on the direction of the pandemic in the country.
4. The President announced that the country is moving to COVID-19 level 4 lockdown with easing of some level 5 restrictions with effect from 1 May 2020. The President however encouraged South Africans to stay home and stay safe.
5. Early Childhood Development (ECD) does not fall within activities that needs to resume as outlined by the president and therefore ALL ECD services have to be closed until further notice.
6. We therefore urge ALL ECD centres/services to please remain closed and adhere to the President's directive to save lives, most importantly the lives of our children. Quoting from his words, Mr President, President Cyril Ramaphosa who said; " There is no person who doesn't want to return to work, there is no company that does not want to re-open, there is no student who doesn't want to return to their studies. Yet, we are all called upon, at some time in our lives, to make great sacrifices for our own future and for future of others."
7. Thanking you for your cooperation, together we can fight this virus.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr L Mchunu
Acting Director-General**

Date: 13/05/2020