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Tanya Stone

Chartered 6<sup>th</sup> October 1992



**Address**

PO Box 428  
Howard Place  
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**Meeting Venue**

Helen Keller Society  
Pinelands

**Meeting Time**

17h45 for 18h15

**Face book page**

Pinelands Rotary, Cape  
Town Facebook

**FRIDAY**

**19<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**16<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Editor:**

Tanya Stone  
Rotary Club of Pinelands



Dear fellow Rotarians, family and friends

I hope everyone is well and healthy!

I am sure most of you are looking forward to the further easing of restrictions regarding sit-down restaurants, casinos, hotels, hair-dressers, among other businesses.

The date of when these sectors will be re-opened will be announced in due course.

Time to get rid of the grey hairs, dolls.

I am happy for the businesses as they have suffered a great deal financially.

I do think that everyone should still take precautions, wear your mask, wash your hands and keep the social distancing rule. (I am sure you are sick of hearing this..)

Establishments are gearing up in the form of sanitation procedures for premises and making sure all is safe, but it is important to remember that this virus is ruthless.

Please see DG David Holtzhausen's weekly newsletter below which includes information of the Virtual District Conference, together with the programme, which takes place tomorrow, Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June. See you there!

Keep safe, take care and have a lovely weekend.

**Tanya**

## District 9350

# Connecting the World” Weekly Newsflash – Covid-19

16 June 2020

### A weekly update during this time of crisis

*Don't stop thinking about tomorrow – Fleetwood Mac 1977*

As we approach the end of this Rotary year, the lyrics from the above Fleetwood Mac song are very relevant – don't stop thinking about tomorrow, it will soon be here. Yesterday's gone...

Rotary is such an incredible organization, and attracts people who are forward thinking and always see the bright side ahead of them – and where it is not so bright, set out to change it!

On Saturday we celebrate some of the successes of this year, and particularly how we have connected over the past year and set the foundation for an incredible few years ahead of us – and it is all thanks to you!

Each member of Rotary plays their own part in the success, and the combined impact is far greater than any one of us could believe is possible.

I have spent a lot of the past week reviewing the result of my club visits and projects I was fortunate to either visit or be updated on – and realise just how incredible you all are in making this happen. Even in this turbulent time clubs are coming through with innovative ideas, great humanitarian projects and setting us up for the future. I am looking forward to seeing what we achieve next year. We are proving every day how Rotary Connects the World.

#### Inductions update

As requested by a number of members, I have attached the list at the end of this newsletter together with the name of the incoming president, rsvp details (where provided) and date. Please forward your clubs details as well

#### Our Virtual Conference

The virtual conference is on **Saturday 20 June 2020** from 9am till 3pm, and will then go into the opening of the virtual convention until 4.15pm. Here is the link for the conference, as well as the program for the day. You will be asked to register when you connect – so we can see who is attending from clubs for Roll Call

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88525842709?pwd=Q1dqbn0xrc2M5dWFlUOGFBbDRqKy9sZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 2584 2709

Password: 428011



**DISTRICT Online Conference Programme: Saturday 20 June 2020**

**CELEBRATING OUR CONNECTIONS**

Host: **DG David Holtzhausen**

<b>Time</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Register and Join the Conference Meet-and greet your fellow Rotarians
08:55	Call to order/Housekeeping rules
09:00	<b>Invocation</b>
09:05	<b>Conference: Welcome</b> <b>Virtual Peace Candle</b> <b>In Memorium</b>
09:30	<b>Message from RIP Mark Maloney</b>
09:45	<b>Normal is Over: Environment report back</b>
10:20	<b>Celebrating our Youth</b>
	10:35 – 11:00 TEA
11:00	<b>Rotary Foundation – successes and challenges</b>
11:25	<b>Entrepreneurship: The key to the economic future?</b>
11:50	<b>Rotaract: True inspiration</b>
	12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH-Break
13:28	Call to order
13:30	<b>Celebrating our Success:</b> <b>How public image helps your club connect</b>
13:55	<b>Celebrating who we are:</b> <b>Feedback from the Future Pillar</b>
14:20	<b>Club Roll Call</b>
14:35	<b>Conference Resolutions and awards</b>
14:40	<b>Induction of DGE Carl-Heinz Duisberg</b>
14:50	<b>Wrap up and link to Virtual Convention</b>

**The Virtual Convention**

Registrations are open for the Virtual Convention – go to [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org) and enter your details. It is absolutely free, and we would like to know how many of our members are registered (as of yesterday it was 168 from all three districts combined) Even if joining from our conference, please register!  
Please stay safe, stay connected and let's keep up the great work

Yours in Rotary  
**DG David**

## Induction dates

Please send me your details as they become available

Date/Club	Incoming President	Time	RSVP to:	RSVP Date
<b>23 June</b>				
Hout Bay	Alison Rice	17h00	harrietpurser@yahoo.com	19 June
Melkbos	Angela O'Brien	19h00	angelamuspratt@gmail.com	
Luderitz	Erich Looser	19h00	Nest hotel, Luderitz	
<b>25 June</b>				
Strand	Robert Adcock	19h00	Annelie.r@mweb.co.za	
Goodwood	Polla Coetzer		Mias@herdamakelaars.co.za	
<b>26 June</b>				
Windhoek Rotaract	Kauko Herunga	18h30	Nadahondjera51@gmail.com	15 June
<b>27 June</b>				
Tygerberg	Nigel Lambert	09h00	Willy.watson1@gmail.com	
Waterfront	Janet Krisman	11h00	waterfrontrotary9350@gmail.com	24 June
Newlands	Jenny Ibbotson	19h00	Christopher.beech67@gmail.com	
<b>29 June</b>				
Table Bay	Mandy Allan	19h00	Wares@iafrica.com	22 June
<b>30 June</b>				
Paarl	Bryan Anderson	18h00	bryana@winesolutions.co.za	
Century City	Diedre Crouser	19h00	stephan@lahausse.co.za	25 June
Constantia	Peter Rogers	19h00	gvk@iafrica.com	
Claremont	Monique Stuart-Fox	19h00	claremontclub@rotary9350.co.za	1 June
Cape of Good Hope	Koos Burger	19h00	susan@jap.co.za	
<b>1 July</b>				
Noon Gun	Claire de Trevou	19h00		
<b>2 July</b>				
Blouberg	Richard Wade	18h30	jeanfreebs@iafrica.com	30 June
Blouberg Rotaract	Sai Girish Gandepalli		<i>Combined induction!</i>	
Wynberg	Justin Schongewel	18h00	stacyed@gmail.com	27 June
<b>4 July</b>				
Claremont Rotaract		11h00	RotaractClaremont@outlook.com	
<b>6 July</b>				
Pinelands	Peter Sharples	18h30	tanya@conferencewise.co.za	26 June
<b>7 July 18h30</b>				
E-Club	Koos Stassen			
<b>14 July</b>				
Bellville	Pam Rawbone	18h30		

# The Rotary Club of Pinelands Virtual Induction Ceremony Invitation



President Frank Matose and the members of

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF PINELANDS

warmly invite you, friends and family to celebrate the

## VIRTUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

of our incoming President

### PETER SHARPLES

for 2020/2021

**DATE:** Monday 6 July 2020

**TIME:** 6.30pm

**DRESS CODE:** Being a formal Rotary celebration, kindly dress in ceremonial attire, together with your Rotary regalia and name badges.

**DONATION:** The Pinelands RC would like to collect funds for the Club's feeding project of 200 children in Khayelitsha for a period of 6 months and we appeal to all Rotarians to give a minimum donation of R10 to a maximum of R50 (or more if you wish) for us to fulfill our project's objective. This would be highly appreciated by all. Friends and family may simply be guided by their hearts.

**RSVP:** by Friday 26 June 2020 to Tanya Stone  
[tanya@conferencewise.co.za](mailto:tanya@conferencewise.co.za)

The meeting will take place via Zoom. Once we have received your confirmation, we will email the link ID and Password to allow you access for the evening.

*Donations to be paid into the Pinelands Club account via EFT:*

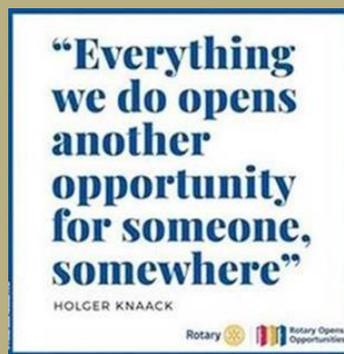
**Banking Details:**

The Rotary Club of Pinelands  
Nedbank Claremont

Account Type:	Current account
Account number:	1047 030 349
EFT code:	198765

Kindly enter **INDUCTION** and **Surname/Club** with payment confirmation to our treasurer Dez Jansen at [dez@vuyainvest.co.za](mailto:dez@vuyainvest.co.za) Queries: Dez 076 4038000

We look forward to you joining us in the great celebration and to the start of this new Rotary year!





**Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak situation  
FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

Statistics from Worldometer and WHO on COVID-19

**PLEASE NOTE:** Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

**8,639,090**

**Confirmed cases**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**457,752**

**Confirmed deaths**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**4,567,985**

**Recovered**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

# UPDATE



## SOUTH AFRICA

Friday

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

South Africa now has **83,890** confirmed cases.

South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA  
on COVID-19

**83,890**

**Positive Cases Identified**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**1,737**

**Deaths**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**44,920**

**Recovered**

Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

# UPDATE AFRICA



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
Africa now has **277,116** confirmed cases.

**277,116**  
**Positive Cases Identified**  
Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**7,426**  
**Deaths**  
Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

**127,799**  
**Recovered**  
Updated: 19<sup>th</sup> June

# NEWS

## SOUTH AFRICA



### 5 important things happening in South Africa today

Staff Writer  
BusinessTech

*Here's what is happening in and affecting South Africa today:*

**Coronavirus:** Global Covid-19 cases have passed 8.3 million in total, with the death toll climbing to almost 450,000. In South Africa, another daily jump of over 3,400 cases takes the country's total to 83,890. So far, 1,737 people have died from the virus, and 44,920 have recovered, leaving the country with 37,233 active cases that need to be resolved.

**Better understanding:** New studies and research are giving us a better understanding of the coronavirus, who it affects, and how it spreads. Research is confirming what infections patterns have shown – that young people under 20 are half as likely to catch the virus. Another study shows that you're twice as likely to infect someone at home with Covid-19 than other diseases like the flu. Meanwhile, a South African healthcare survey warns that the country may not have the capacity to deal with the virus at its peak. [[TimesLive](#), [ENCA](#), [M&G](#)]

**Waiting game:** Following the announcement that more sectors of the economy will open up, these industries (restaurants, hotels, etc) are now waiting for clarity from government on what this entails. The industries are desperate for the information they need to open up, and patience is wearing thin. The tourism industry is seeking clarity on how exactly they're allowed to operate, while the restaurant industry says it just needs a start date so that it can prepare to get back to work. [[EWN](#), [Moneyweb](#)]

**Looters charged:** The 8 men arrested for their role in the R2.2 billion looting of VBS bank have been formally charged in court, and are facing 41 counts of fraud, theft, money laundering, corruption and racketeering. The theft relates to the men setting up fake accounts at the bank for over 40 shelf companies, which siphoned out depositors' funds. The men fraudulently signed off on financial statements trying to hide this, were paid off to stay silent, and then used intermediaries and front companies to launder the funds, the charge sheet says. [[Daily Maverick](#)]

**Rejected:** Unions have rejected the severance packages being offered by SAA as part of its business rescue plan – which would see about 80% of the failed airline's workforce be given the chop, in the hopes that a more finely-tuned 'new' state airline could emerge. Retrenched workers would be offered one week's pay for every year worked at the airline as part of the package, which would amount to R2.2 billion in total. Unions say this is not enough. If SAA's business rescue plan fails to get support, liquidation may be on the cards. [[Mail & Guardian](#)]

**Markets:** South Africa's rand tumbled on Thursday despite the country loosening coronavirus restrictions as global risk sentiment was hurt again by fears of a second wave of infections. The rand ended Thursday another leg weaker as the dollar gained momentum, following the recent range-bound trading. On Friday the rand was at R17.45 to the dollar, R21.69 to the pound and R19.57 to the euro. Commentary by Reuters and Peregrine Treasury Solutions. [[XE](#)]

### Coronavirus in South Africa: Restrictions ease as Covid-19 cases rise rapidly

By BBC News



In the face of a deteriorating economic situation, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has opted to ease lockdown restrictions further even though coronavirus cases are beginning to rise rapidly.

In the past week alone, the number has increased by 37%. But in a frank address to the nation, the president highlighted the need to preserve peoples' livelihoods. As a result, he said that parts of the leisure industry will reopen soon.

At the end of March, the country entered into one of the strictest lockdown regimes in the world, almost all movement outside was restricted and the sale of cigarettes and alcohol was banned.

Those measures have been credited with slowing the initial spread of Covid-19 and, as Mr Ramaphosa said, gave the health sector valuable time to prepare for an influx of patients.

But, he warned "this task is far from complete. Even after 100 days, we are still near the beginning of this epidemic and it will remain with us for many more months, possibly years". Nevertheless, sit-down restaurants, casinos, hotels and hair-dressers, among other businesses, will now be able to reopen, which could see half a million people going back to work. But no date was set for when this will happen.

At the beginning of the month, the key mining sector as well as manufacturing businesses were allowed to return to normal production levels. People were also allowed outside and the ban on the sale of alcohol to drink at home was lifted between Monday and Thursday.

South Africa's economy has taken a massive knock as a result of months of lockdown and the further easing of restrictions will be welcome relief to struggling small business owners, BBC business reporter Vumani Mkhize says.

## Men bear responsibility of ending gender-based violence says Winde



By Quinton Mtyala and Theolin Tembo  
**Cape Argus**

**Cape Town** - Touching on the scourge of violence against women and children, with several cases making the headlines as the lockdown restrictions have been eased, President Cyril Ramaphosa said he was appalled.

The president addressed the country on the easing of lockdown regulations on Wednesday night, and he made a point to include femicide.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts that I stand before the women and girls of South Africa this evening to talk about another pandemic that is raging in our country – the killing of women and children by the men of our country.

"As a man, as a husband and as a father, I am appalled at what is no less than a war being waged against the women and children of our country."

Ramaphosa specifically mentioned the case of eight-month pregnant Tshegofatse Pule, 28, who was found murdered and hanging from a tree last week, Altecia Kortje, 27, who was murdered along with her 7-year-old daughter in Belhar and the case of Mossel Bay woman Naledi Phangidawo, 26, who was stabbed and hacked to death by the father of two of her three children.

"I want to assure the women and children of South Africa that our criminal justice system will remain focused on gender-based violence cases and that we can expect more arrests and more prosecutions against perpetrators to follow. The perpetrators of violence against women and children must receive sentences that fit the horrific crimes they commit.

"It is deeply disturbing that the spike in crimes against women and children has coincided with the easing of the coronavirus lockdown."

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde added that he stands behind President Ramaphosa's call to end gender based violence.

"As a society we all have a role to play in ending violence against women and children. The recent spate of violent attacks on women all have one thing in common: they have been perpetrated by men. So as men, we bear an even greater responsibility in ending gender based violence.

"We must never remain silent in the face of discrimination and violence. We must raise our boys to treat women as equals, instill in them the values of respect and give them the tools to resolve conflicts and to process their emotional responses without resorting to anger and violence," Winde said.

"We send our deepest condolences to those who are mourning the devastating loss of a daughter, mother, grandmother, friend of colleague right now."

The premier said he welcomes the fact that arrests have been made in many of these cases but research from around the world has shown that the biggest deterrent to crime is certainty of punishment.

"The responsibility now lies on those in our justice system to ensure that investigations are completed, evidence is preserved, dockets are completed and those who are guilty, are brought to book. These acts of violence should make us all feel anger, sadness and shame. But they must also make us question what each of us can do to make our country safer for women and force us to take action now," he said.

The premier added that a big contributor to violence in South Africa is the abuse of alcohol, and that the province has seen the increases in crime and in trauma associated with alcohol since it was unbanned at the beginning of this month.

"As a province, we are exploring legislative changes in order to reduce the harms associated with alcohol abuse as part of our safety plan but at the same time, we must all take personal responsibility, drink responsibly and reach out for assistance by calling our Department of Social Development hotline on 0800 220 250."

## A woman is murdered in SA every 3 hours

By VELISA MADASAMY  
**THE POST**

**DURBAN** - The crime statistics for 2017/18 revealed that 2 930 women were murdered. This is equivalent to one murder every three hours.

And half of the victims were murdered by men with whom they had a close relationship.

Last year, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that South Africa was one of "the most unsafe places in the world to be a woman".

Over the past week, there has been a surge in gender-based violence against women in South Africa.

In particular, three incidents have stood out:

- On June 2, Danielle Maistry, 20, a final year business administration student from Durban, was beaten almost to death during an alleged argument. She is currently in the intensive care unit of a hospital with a brain bleed. Her partner, Ryle Steenkamp, 37, allegedly held her hostage in his Pinetown home until the police rescued her.

- On June 6, Naledi Phangindawo, 25, a mother of three from Mossel Bay, Cape Town, was hacked and stabbed to death with an axe, allegedly by her partner, when she tried to end their relationship. Her partner, 34, is also the father of her children.

- On June 8, Tshegofatso Pule, 28, who was eight months pregnant and lived in Meadowlands, Johannesburg, was found with stab wounds and hanged from a tree in Roodepoort.

[READ MORE](#)

## Winde welcomes easing of lockdown restrictions announced by Ramaphosa



Premier Alan Winde has welcomed news that soon restaurants, hair salons and cinemas will be open for business as government further eases lockdown restrictions.

By Quinton Mtyala and Theolin Tembo  
Cape Argus

**Cape Town** - Premier Alan Winde has welcomed news that soon restaurants, hair salons and cinemas will be open for business as government further eases lockdown restrictions ordered to halt the spread of Covid-19.

Addressing the nation on Wednesday night, President Cyril Ramaphosa said more than 100 days after lockdown restrictions were made law, South Africa was still near the beginning of the pandemic which could last for "many more months, possibly years".

Earlier this week Small Business Development Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni hinted that lockdown restrictions would be relaxed to open more sectors of the economy.

Ramaphosa said that since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak, there had been 80 412 confirmed cases in South Africa. "Of these, 44 331 people - or around 55% - have recovered. That means there are currently 34 407 active cases in the country," said Ramaphosa.

He said government's R500 billion relief package was not sufficient and with advice from scientists and consultation with premiers, the Cabinet had ease restrictions on:

- \* Restaurants for sit-down dining.
- \* Accredited and licensed accommodation except for home-sharing (AirBnB).
- \* Conferences and meetings for business purposes and in line with restrictions on public gatherings.
- \* Cinemas and theatres will be allowed to open but with restrictions in place on the number of people.
- \* Casinos and personal care services like hair salons and spas will also be allowed to open with safety protocols adhered to.

Ramaphosa said: "We have taken this decision with due care and seriousness, appreciating the risks associated with each activity and the measures needed to manage those risks.

"Altogether, these industries employed over 500 000 people before the lockdown. We have had to think about these people and those who depend on them for their livelihoods.

"Through the easing of the lockdown, we are continuing to balance our overriding objective of saving lives and preserving livelihoods."

He said announcements on the opening of businesses would be made in due course.

"The last three months have been particularly difficult for the millions of women who work as hairdressers, in spas, as therapists and technicians. Many of these are businesses are owned by women and a source of income in the informal sector.

"Giving women the necessary support to become financially independent is the greatest of priorities, especially now." Winde said the announcements made by the president will allow more sectors of the economy to re-open and allow people, who have not been able to work since the lockdown was first implemented, to start earning a salary again.

"The lockdown, first implemented in March, has had a severe impact on our economy, and has resulted in an increased need for humanitarian support as people have been unable to feed their families as a result of not earning a salary, or having lost their jobs," Winde said.

"The Western Cape's tourism and hospitality industry sustains thousands of jobs in the province and allowing restaurants to re-open for sit down meals, and certain tourism and conferencing services to re-open will provide some relief. We await further clarity from the regulations detailing when and how these businesses will be able to operate."

Winde said that the closure of personal care services has had a major impact on a number of small businesses "which as President Ramaphosa pointed out, are overwhelmingly owned and staffed by women". He explained that allowing these businesses to re-open will have a major impact on many homes and families across the Western Cape and the country.

"The re-opening of these businesses must be done carefully, and with the utmost attention to hygiene and safety standards," he said.

"The re-opening of more areas of our economy must not be seen as an opportunity to let our guards down. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to minimise the spread of the virus. Stay at home wherever possible, especially if you are in one of the high-risk groups."

### Level 3 lockdown: Joy as Ramaphosa reopens beauty bars and hairdressers

By IOL Reporter



President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that personal care services - such as beauty bars and hair salons will be allowed to reopen under strict safety conditions.

However, it is not known when this will be as the president said a date had yet to be decided.

"Specific and stringent safety requirements have been agreed on and will need to be put in place before a business can re-open, and protocols will need to be strictly adhered to for businesses to remain open.

"Announcements will be made in due course to detail these measures and indicate the date from which these activities will be permitted.

"We have taken this decision with due care and seriousness, appreciating the risks associated with each activity and the measures needed to manage those risks," said Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa said the decision to reopen sit-in restaurants, accredited and licensed accommodation facilities (excluding home sharing accommodation like AirBnB), conference centres and meetings for business purposes, cinemas and theatres, casino, non-contact sports such as golf, tennis and cricket and personal care services - including hair dressers.

On Twitter, South Africans reacted mostly with joy, but some remained cautious, saying they would continue to stay home.

## Malema wants alcohol re-banned in South Africa

BY ZINGISA MVUMVU  
Sunday Times



Julius Malema has already objected to the reopening of schools and places of worship. South African opposition leader Julius Malema has called for the coronavirus lockdown ban on alcohol to be reimposed.

The firebrand Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party leader was hitting out at President Cyril Ramaphosa's decision to reopen the economy in a speech for the virtual celebrations of South Africa's Youth Day.

For two months, South Africa had one of the toughest coronavirus lockdowns in the world - with the sale of alcohol being banned.

It was argued that this would limit domestic abuse, prevent violence and ease pressure on hospitals during the lockdown.

A rise in violent crime has been linked to the partial lifting of alcohol sales on 1 June.

"We call for the reinstatement of the ban on alcohol, for the protection of human life over the desire for profit," Mr Malema said on Tuesday.

"The president of the country has allowed the sale of alcohol in a country that has a history of high fatalities and hospitalisation due to alcohol-related inter-personal violence."

Mr Malema said President Ramaphosa would be held personally responsible for coronavirus-related deaths and accused the president of being an "ally of white monopoly capital".

The EFF leader has previously objected to reopening of schools and places of worship.

South Africa reopened schools for final year students on 8 June, but several schools have since been closed for cleaning after reporting coronavirus cases.

## South Africa seeks R1.5 trillion for decade long building boom

By Bloomberg



South Africa's government told asset managers and banks it needs R1.5 trillion (\$86 billion) of infrastructure investment over the next decade, the country's biggest specialist fixed-income fund said.

At a meeting at the end of last month the infrastructure commission in president Cyril Ramaphosa's office presented projects ranging from water and sanitation to energy and digital infrastructure, said Jason Lightfoot, a portfolio manager at Futuregrowth Asset Management, which oversees about R194 billion.

The presentation was a precursor to a formal announcement of the projects by Ramaphosa on June 23, when he will launch the biggest drive to date to attract private investment into infrastructure. The government's ability to fund projects has been constrained by surging debt and the loss of its last investment grade rating on its debt.

The coronavirus outbreak is further weighing on revenue collection in an economy that the central bank projects will contract by 7% this year.

"The private sector is ready to fund them as long as they are well structured and managed," Lightfoot said. Investors will need to be "compensated for the risks that they are taking." Ramaphosa's launch next week will include the participation of Akinwumi Adesina, the president of the African Development Bank, Makhtar Diop, the vice president for infrastructure at the World Bank and Leslie Maasdorp, Vice president of the New Development Bank.

The country's good core network of national economic infrastructure "needs to be expanded significantly to address the demands of a growing economy," the government said in its draft program for the event.

South Africa is beset by backlogs in the provision of everything from power generation and rail capacity to water supply. State companies, including the key power utility Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd are saddled with debt.

The government is also seeking investment in agriculture and housing.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## New SAA restructuring plan announced

By Vumani Mkhize  
BBC News



The airline has consistently under-performed for the best part of the decade.

After months of wrangling and internal disputes, cash-strapped South African Airways (SAA) finally has a business rescue plan, but it's going to cost the state nearly \$600m (£475m) for the plan to work.

The funds will cover creditors along with voluntary severance packages.

Under the terms of the plan, which government and creditors are yet to approve, only a quarter of the airline's more than 4000 staff will be retained.

Administrators hope that a leaner, smaller SAA will return the company to profitability.

The success of the plan also hinges on a full domestic network starting in January 2021.

South Africa is currently on lockdown while it continues to battle the biggest Covid-19 outbreak on the continent and only a few domestic flights are allowed. It's not yet clear when flights will return to normal.

The proposed restructuring plan is the fifth since the beleaguered national carrier went into bankruptcy protection in December 2019.

The government says it is still studying the proposed plan, but has voiced concern over the effectiveness of the administrators given the amount of time and resources provided to them.

The airline has consistently under-performed for the best part of the decade - it last turned a profit in 2011.

## Five nuns die in Eastern Cape while 17 more test positive for coronavirus

By Sakhiseni Nxumalo  
The Mercury



**Durban** - The five nuns who died of Covid-19 in the Eastern Cape's Mthatha Diocese have been identified.

Mother House Convent, Missionary Sister Nokwanda Bam, who also tested positive for the virus, said another sister was receiving critical-care treatment for the virus.

The church announced earlier this week that, within a space of a week, four nuns had died of Covid-19 at the convent, which also serves as an old-age home.

In a statement, Bam said the upsurge of Covid-19 cases began with the infection of a sister who worked as a nurse at St Mary's Hospital.

"Presently, 17 have tested positive, 15 are negative and three are still waiting for their results," Bam said. According to Archbishop William Matthew Slattery, these were the first cases of Covid-19 recorded at the church. He said three of the nuns were from Mthatha and one was from Matatiele.

Slattery, spokesperson for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said they attended the same church in Mthatha. "This is a sad and dark time. The passing of these Blood Sisters is a tragedy for us, our community and their families. These are the only cases where our members have tested positive and then succumbed to the virus," he said.

Slattery said three of the nuns had been living together and one on her own. They were not related. One was a nursing sister at an Mthatha hospital.

"It is suspected that the nurse may have contracted the virus at work and then came into contact with the other two nuns whom she was living with," said Slattery. He said it was unclear how the fourth nun contracted the virus.

"This is a big shock to the church. It has never happened where we have lost so many congregants in just a week."

According to the Health Ministry, SA has 83 890 confirmed Covid-19 cases. On Thursday, the Health Ministry announced 63 new deaths had been reported between the Eastern and Western Cape, with the total number of Covid-19-related deaths in SA now standing at 1737.

**More than a billion rand in relief has been allocated to the taxi industry to aid thousands of taxis and their operators during the Covid-19 pandemic, Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula has said.**

News 24



“Government has offered the taxi industry a relief package of R1.135 billion. Reaching agreement within government for this relief support for the taxi industry was a difficult process that involved extensive lobbying and convincing the relevant authorities on the importance and need for this fund,” he said on Friday.

Most sub-sectors of government received an average maximum of R350 million, but taxi relief support was the highest, Mbalula said. In contextualising the taxi relief support, it is important to understand that this is among the largest relief packages for any economic sub-sectors provided for by government.

Mbalula emphasised that the funding to the industry was “not compensation for loss of revenue as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, but rather assistance [from] government within the available resources and means”.

“This relief must be equally looked at through a long-term view of the opportunity created by [the] Covid-19 pandemic to achieve long-term sustainability of the industry through formalisation and ultimately, subsidisation.”

Mbalula said the taxi industry had also called for a review of regulations to allow loading capacity to be increased from 70% to 100%.

“[This would be done] with all passengers wearing masks and with regular sanitisation of vehicles after each journey as mitigation measures.”

However, he said this had to be a collective decision that would include the National Coronavirus Command Council. He said the industry also called for inter-provincial travel, but said this would have to be subjected to “the intra-governmental processes outlined”.

Mbalula said that due to the reduction in the number of passengers allowed, the restriction of inter-provincial travel and time restrictions, the taxi industry was hard hit by the Covid-19 lockdown.

“All of the above these meant that the taxi industry was operating less than 60% of its fleet size, and carried 30% less of its licensed carrying capacity. Almost 20% or more of the taxi industry experienced total loss of income.”

The taxi industry is the largest carrier of passengers in South Africa, transporting around 5.4 million people on a daily basis, according to Mbalula.

The industry generates in excess of R40 billion annually with anything between 250 000 to 300 000 taxis that generates approximately 350 000 direct and indirect job opportunities including drivers, rank marshals and other administrative support staff.

**The City of Cape Town will reopen three additional licensing centres on Tuesday as motorists complain about long queues and office closures.**

By Qama Qukula  
Cape Talk

Disgruntled Capetonians have flooded CapeTalk with complaints about the level of service at the City of Cape Town's driver and motor vehicle licensing renewal centres.

Many motorists have been turned away after spending several hours in long queues, standing outside in unfavourable weather conditions.

The City's Director of Revenue Trevor Blake has apologised to the people of Cape Town for the municipal services which have been compromised due to Covid-19 regulations and cluster outbreaks.

He explains that licensing offices cannot operate with full staff capacity due to health and safety requirements.

Currently, 11 out of the 20 licensing offices are operating, including the Strandfontein and Fish Hoek offices that reopened this week.

On Tuesday 23 June, the Milnerton, Pinelands, and Bellville licensing offices will also reopen, Blake says.

He's asked Capetonians to bear with the municipality as it works on offering a more efficient service in the coming weeks.

Blake says the queueing system will be improved across licensing offices by implementing a manual ticket-number system, capping the number of people in queues to between 150 to 200 a day.

**Public works official in hot water after attending online meeting topless in bed**

BY UNATHI NKANJENI  
Times Live

The department of public works & infrastructure has issued an apology to the Joint Portfolio Committee Chairpersons and the public after one of its officials was caught topless during an online meeting.

On Thursday, during a virtual portfolio committee meeting for public works, one of the officials, whose screen name identified him as Christopher Mulaudzi, attended the meeting while topless in bed.

The footage from the meeting was shared on social media.

In a statement, the department condemned the official's actions and said the incident was viewed in a serious light.

“The official was caught on video laying on the bed, topless and wearing only shorts while the meeting was in session, a behaviour which the department strongly condemns as it undermined the decorum of the meeting,” said the director-general of the department, advocate Sam Vukela.

Vukela said the incident was a serious offence which would be followed by a proper disciplinary process.

“This kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable and has brought the department into serious disrepute,” he said

“I have referred the matter to the CEO of the Independent Development Trust to look further into it, to determine the appropriate corrective measures to be taken.

“The CEO will in due course provide the minister with a report on the outcome of this matter and also the measures which have been taken in this regard.”

## Nurture a Nurse in South Africa, help them cope through this tough time!

BY TYLER LEIGH VIVIER

GoodThingsGuy



*There are exceptional nurses in South Africa, braving the pandemic to ensure the public get the healthcare needed; now you can nurture a nurse as thanks!*

The Exceptional Nurse Campaign has been championing the rights of nurses throughout South Africa for the past 5 years. They provide scholarships for exceptional nursing students and have partnered with the Dr Makhanya, the Chief Nursing Officer of South Africa, to start the Nurture a Nurse SA Movement in our country.

The movement is a simple group on Facebook where medical professionals and the general public can interact to help provide the nurses of South Africa with physical, emotional and spiritual support during the Covid19 Pandemic.

A similar group was started in Australia recently, gathering more than 80 000 members in 2 days, who were able to physically and emotionally help the nursing staff throughout the country with things needed to help them perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

The nurses of South Africa form 60% of the incredible team of frontline workers caring for those members of our country who get sick. Besides using their medical knowledge to keep people safe and well, nurses play a huge role in supporting patients both emotionally and spiritually during a difficult time in a patient's life. Let's support them where we can!

Please see below the message from Dr Makhanya, the Chief Nursing Officer of South Africa.

*I am Dr Makhanya, the Chief Nursing Officer of South Africa and I have a very important message for our nation.*

*I am very proud of my exceptional nurses right now... They are risking their own lives on the frontline to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and they desperately need our help!*

*You can help them by visiting The Exceptional Nurse Facebook page and joining their Nurture a Nurse SA Group on the page – where nurses and doctors are making pleas directly to the public.*

*Their needs are great, ranging from face masks to prayer, snack packs or simple cards of encouragement. Please join the Nurture a Nurse SA Group to find out what you or your company can do to NURTURE A NURSE or HEALTHCARE worker.*

*South Africa our nurses need you! Let's join The Exceptional Nurse Facebook page – look for 'Nurture a Nurse SA' Group – to conquer COVID 19 together.*

*Thank you and may God bless and protect you!"*

*If you would like to nurture a nurse, you can reach out via the Facebook Group [here](#) or check out the Exceptional Nurse Campaign website [here](#).*

## Lockdown: Durban restaurant dedicates itself to feeding the hungry

By Kaveel Singh

News24

Restaurants throughout SA are feeling the pinch during the national lockdown, but the owners of D'urban Burger are cooking up a storm for the less fortunate - despite their own business challenges.

Run by a husband and wife duo, Rokia and professional chef Khutso Masethe, the couple realised their dream of opening a gourmet restaurant in the heart of one of Durban's trendiest areas, Umhlanga.

But they were hit hard just a year later by the impact of Covid-19 and the national lockdown.

"D'urban Burger was Khutso's dream. He is a chef with extensive fine dining experience. We worked hard to get the brand going.

We started with pop-up markets, selling sauces and doing everything we could do. Having the restaurant in Umhlanga was a dream that we realised," said Rokia Masethe.

However, Covid-19 soon put a hold on the couple's dream.

"It was hard. For the first week, we were just in our pyjamas in the house, stressing out. We knew that, if we don't work, we do not eat at all," she said.

Masethe said the couple then resolved to "ride the wave because we are people of faith".

Their faith would pay off sooner than expected.

"We were sitting on the couch one day and a friend of ours sent us a link to see what some other restaurants in Cape Town were doing."

The link revealed an Eat Out relief fund initiative, which saw many restaurant kitchens kept open to help others.

"We did not think about applying to Eat Out at first. For us, it was about feeding people. We knew this is what we had to do. We looked at each other and knew this is what we had to do. We did not know how far it would go. We said we have food in the shop, pots, and hungry people - let's go for it," she said.

Masethe added: "We said funding or no funding, let's feed people ."However, their resources were low, and the food could not even feed 20 people.It took a shape of its own

Masethe said they called Dr Victoria Mubaiwa from House of Dorcas, a non-profit organisation (NPO) "that is always buying food for the vulnerable".

"We got in touch with her and expressed what we were feeling, and the urgency of what we needed to do."

By the following day, the couple were feeding 150 people.

"After we called her, the next day we had 10kg in rice, 10 mielie meal bags and chicken livers in our restaurant. We emptied the fridge and cooked all of our own stock. From that one cooking, a couple of people heard about it, and would rock up with more food. It became a ripple effect."

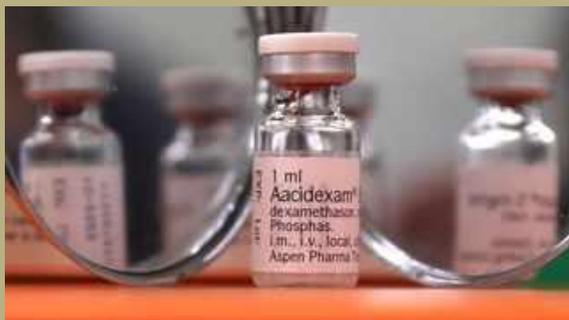
He said people then started donating food parcels.

"Three weeks into it, we saw that we needed to be more structured. We saw donations coming in, but they were random. We then made a list and it started taking shape."

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

## SA manufactures breakthrough coronavirus drug

By MTHOKOZISI DUBE  
IOL



The newly-discovered coronavirus breakthrough drug, dexamethasone, is produced and readily available in South Africa, giving hope amid a surge in both infections and deaths from the killer pandemic.

The drug was already used for inflammatory disorders and certain cancers but it has now been found to be useful in coronavirus treatment.

A clinical trial in the United Kingdom concluded that dexamethasone, a steroid, can save critically ill coronavirus patients requiring any respiratory intervention, in what has been hailed as a major breakthrough in finding a remedy for the global pandemic.

Research shows that the drug reduced deaths by one-third for Covid-19 patients on ventilators and it cuts mortality by about one-fifth on patients requiring oxygen according to preliminary findings shared with and approved by the World Health Organisation.

The findings came from 2104 randomised patients who had 6mg of dexamethasone administered to them per day for 10 days among over 11, 500 patients who were enrolled for the trial from over 175 NHS hospitals in the UK.

South African pharmaceutical giant Aspen makes dexamethasone injections whose regulated price range between R149 and R176 locally.

The company, which has international markets including the UK, is projecting an increase in demand for the drug and its chief executive officer Stephen Saad has given assurance for adequate supplies on the domestic front.

"It all depends on where and when we get the surges. We should be fine for South Africa, as we make this in South Africa," Mr Saad said.

Fears that there could be a shortage of the drug in South Africa comes following insufficient supplies in 2006 after patent holder Merck & Company stopped production in what was a huge medical inconvenience for cancer patients who rely on the drug. But Aspen is now producing dexamethasone while companies like Adcock Ingram and Sanofi are registered to distribute the drug in South Africa.

The findings on dexamethasone come as South Africa has the highest coronavirus infections in Africa with 76,334 and 1,625 deaths which are close to Egypt's 1,766 which is the highest mortality on the continent.

Meanwhile, Morocco has shipped out consignments of locally manufactured and internationally approved medical supplies to 15 African countries.

The north African country this week sent out eight million face masks, 900,000 visors, 600,000 hygiene caps, 60,000 medical coats, 30,000 litres of hydroalcoholic gel all manufactured locally.

"All the products and protective equipment part of the medical aid sent are manufactured by Moroccan companies and comply with the standards of the World Health Organization," Morocco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The supplies were given out at the instruction of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. "It's also composed of 75,000 packs of chloroquine and 15,000 packs of Azithromycin, two drugs used for the treatment of Covid-19."

The aid will benefit 15 African countries, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia.

## Health ministry changes stance on use of dexamethasone for treating Covid-19

By IOL reporter



The Covid-19 sub-committee of the National Essential Medicines List Committee is updating its recommendations on the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of Covid-19, the Health Ministry says, in light of the initial clinical trial results on the use of dexamethasone.

Previously, given what it deemed the "lack of effectiveness and possible harm previously seen", it had recommended that "routine corticosteroids should be avoided" in most instances.

But it has changed its stance while waiting to make a full assessment of the UK trial results that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can be lifesaving for patients who are critically ill with Covid-19.

For patients on ventilators, the dexamethasone treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about a third and for patients requiring only oxygen mortality was cut by about one fifth, according to preliminary findings shared with the World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday.

In welcoming the news, the world health body said: "WHO will coordinate a meta-analysis to increase our overall understanding of this intervention. WHO clinical guidance will be updated to reflect how and when the drug should be used in Covid-19."

Based on these results, one death would be prevented by treatment of around eight ventilated patients or around 25 patients requiring oxygen alone. There was no benefit among those patients who did not require respiratory support.

[READ MORE](#)

## 9-year-old Amelia made her community proud by raising thousands to feed the local homeless in her community; she made a massive difference!

BY TYLER LEIGH VIVIER  
The Good Things Guy



There is never a moment in life that goes by, that you can't use to make a difference. We have learned that you can never be too young or too old to change a life. Amelia is proof of that and she is changing more than just one life!

9-year-old Amelia had a dream. She saw the need for food for the homeless and also knew children in hospitals needed toys to stay busy. Amelia wrote her mom a letter, asking if they could please do something to help. Her mother agreed but discussed that they focus on the homeless for the lockdown and the children in the hospital come Christmas.

Together they started raising funds and Amelia's story spread the globe. Amelia was able to raise nearly R15,000 which they used to make food parcels for the homeless.

"Amelia wrote me an amazing letter and expressed how she wanted to help a children's hospital and the homeless. She is very passionate about her cause and her very first donation left her in tears. Since lockdown is now a reality her focus is on the homeless for now, making food parcels that can be donated to a facility to hand out or to the few wonderful people we have met on our journey to work or school. Amelia would like to create an impact at a hospital where she can donate toys around Christmas time however should logistics not allow she would like to gift children less fortunate with Christmas gifts. For now, her goal is to feed as many hungry people as she can.

*Amelia is only 9 years old. She is little but mighty! We are very proud parents and want to thank everyone that has asked for a link to donate and to the individuals who have already sent her items, vouchers and donations.*

*Amelia would like to show young people that it is possible to make a difference in your community. She wants to help people in lockdown that are facing difficulties. As she says: its Lockdown and we should be inside but there are people stuck outside with nothing"*  
*You can see some of the work she has done so far below. You can also find her crowdfund [here](#).*

## Would you pay R1 900 to watch the Vodacom Durban July from home?

By Lifestyle Reporter  
IOL



Models show off outfits at last year's Vodacom Durban July.

Due to Covid-19, the Vodacom Durban July which was supposed to take place on July 4 has been moved to July 25 and will be streamed digitally.

The largest horse racing event in South Africa which is usually held at the Greyville racecourse in Durban will broadcast live on YouTube as well as bet365.

Most elements of the Durban July such as the traditional three month fashion programme that is synonymous with the build-up to the Vodacom Durban July have been affected but the participants will still showcase their garments, digitally.

"The Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award is a critical part of that programme, and it is already being worked on as part of the syllabus at many fashion design colleges and technikon.

"This pandemic has forced all South Africans to rethink the way we go about our daily lives, and we will be doing the same with the fashion programme and embracing digital technology as best we can to keep the important elements of the fashion programme going without compromising any of our support for the national regulations in place to fight this virus," said Gold Circle's Marketing Executive, Steve Marshall.

Although you'll be watching the event from the comfort of your own home, some marquees like the Pegasus Lounge are offering you a VIP virtual experience and you would have to pay R1900 for it.

South Africans are still not certain why people would pay R1 900 to have alcohol and canapes delivered at your door while watching the horse races online.

**VODACOM DURBAN JULY**  
25 JULY 2020

Experience a day at the races from the comfort of your own home!

**FULL PACKAGE**

R1900 ex VAT  
PACKAGE FOR 2 PEOPLE

Ticket gets you access into our virtual lounge, upscale menu including canapés and hot meals delivered to your door. And the following bottle service:

1 x BOTTLE TANQUERAY  
1 x BOTTLE WHISKEY  
12 MIXERS  
1 x 6 PACK OF HEINEKEN/HEINEKEN O.O  
INCLUDES A GOODIE BAG

# 5 things you can do when you miss you, friends and family, during the lockdown

By Lifestyle Reporter  
IOL



We have all been cooped up in our homes for weeks, so cabin fever is real! For most people, there is nothing better than getting together with family and friends and when these interactions are taken away, it is natural to feel off.

To beat the Covid-19 blues, Rioma Cominelli, Director at First Loyalty Plus, believes that now more than ever, it is important to take care of your mental health by remembering just how resourceful you can be.

"While lockdown has certainly put a damper on our social lives, social distancing doesn't have to mean cutting yourself off from the world. We are living in a digital age and we have tools that we can use to instantly connect with people around the corner or across the globe," Rioma explains.

The internet can unlock our communications superpowers and provide a variety of opportunities to connect through multiple social activities. While nothing beats sitting next to someone you care about and having a conversation, online tools provide the next best thing – being there for each other without physically being there.

Rioma offers her top five ideas for staying connected with friends and family in a socially distanced world:

## 1. Online watch parties

Unleash your inner movie critic! Send your family and friends a Google Hangout link or Zoom invite that they can open on their laptops, tablets or smartphone and watch a movie together. The hardest part of this will likely be getting everyone to decide on a movie. Once that's settled, pick a method of communication – video calling, voice chatting, text messaging – and start watching at the same time. And don't forget the popcorn for a real movie experience.

## 2. Take a virtual vacation

If you are dreaming about taking a stroll on a sun-drenched beach or hiking in the mountains, whisk you and your friends away onto the world wide web and travel at the click of a mouse. Decide on your destination beforehand and then give each person an opportunity to share their destination through pictures and video. It could be somewhere you've already visited or your dream vacation. And the more people you get involved, the more travel destinations you will visit in one sitting. Around the country, around the world in one day.

## 3. Cook together

Does your mouth water every time you think about your dish of choice at your favourite restaurant? Why not find the recipe online and then challenge your friends and family to make it together at the same time? Agree on the recipe, make sure that everyone has the same ingredients and set up a video call so that you make the meal together. The proof however will be in the tasting – so get together online when the dish is ready and compare tasting notes too.

## 4. Virtual happy hour

Grabbing a drink at your local bar or restaurant is a great way to decompress but unfortunately, it is off the cards. If you are missing this as part of your weekly routine, you can throw a fun virtual happy hour from home. Throwing an online happy hour is very similar to an online watch party. Everyone can enjoy a drink and spend time gossiping together virtually.

## 5. Social distance workouts

A workout regimen can boost your immune system but solitary exercise can be a lonely endeavour and it's difficult to stay motivated. Try setting up a regular, common workout time with a friend or loved one. You can even attend online exercise classes together. This way, you can motivate each other in real-time and hold each other accountable to push toward new goals.

So give your Covid-19 blues the boot. Humans are capable of incredible things, but our ability to adapt and overcome is perhaps the strongest. Use these tips to stay connected with those close to you, whether it's to learn together, check-in or simply listen.

Rioma concludes: "Spending quality time with friends and family is just good for the soul. Being happier, healthier and learning more are all advantages that should motivate even the most dedicated of loners to get out there and mingle."

## DOWNLOAD | Free e-book on Covid-19 safety and awareness for South African kids

By Parent24



*This 8-page illustrated e-book is centred around two South African boys who talk about the virus, what the symptoms are and how it spreads.*

The local leg of Global NPO INMED has teamed up with its sister organisation Partnerships for Children to create a free e-book aimed at helping children understand everything they need to know about the coronavirus.

The 8-page illustrated e-book is centred around two young boys from Soweto, Muzi and Jimmy, who talk about the virus, how it is spread, what the symptoms are and how to self-test.

"It uses simple language and explains concepts in a calm and reassuring way," explains INMED South Africa's Programmes Director, Unathi Sihlahla.

Sihlahla notes that while the e-book is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, it should be viewed as a useful aid to educate and empower young South African children in a relatable way.

Given that internet access is a limited resource in SA, the organisations hope to raise enough funding to print and distribute the booklet nationally.

[DOWNLOAD BOOKLET](#)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD

### **'Healthy' baby just 13 days old dies from coronavirus as UK hospital toll rises**

A 'healthy' 13-day-old baby has become one of the UK's youngest coronavirus victims after dying in a hospital in England.

NHS England said the infant had no known underlying health conditions as it announced the heartbreaking news on Thursday.

It is thought that the UK's youngest victim was three-day-old Coolio Carl Justin Morgan, whose mother contracted Covid-19 while pregnant.

[READ TO FULL STORY](#)

### **Welsh First Minister expected to keep five mile advice but allow shops to re-open from Monday**

By Joseph Wilkes

**Daily Mirror**

All non-essential shops will be allowed to open their doors again in Wales from Monday, the Mirror understands.

But it is expected that people will be asked to continue to "stay local" within five miles (8km) for at least another two weeks.

First Minister Mark Drakeford is understood to be ready to announce on Friday that shops can reopen next week providing they can "take all reasonable measures to comply with the physical distancing duty in Welsh law".

Scores of shoppers descended on high streets on Monday after England announced its own stores could open to the public again.

Businesses in Wales will be expected to ensure two-metre social distancing is observed in their premises.

### **WHO warns UK to prepare for coronavirus second wave hitting Europe in the autumn**

By Joseph Wilkes

**Daily Mirror**

A World Health Organisation (WHO) boss has warned a second wave of coronavirus could hit this autumn.

Nations have been urged today to adopt the track, test and isolate programme or suffer the consequences of the deadly new wave.

The warning comes just as the UK is abandoning its efforts to develop its own contact-tracing app.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

### **Ditched Government coronavirus app only detected 4% of contacts on iPhones**

By Joseph Wilkes

**Daily Mirror**

The Government's ditched coronavirus app only picked up contacts with iPhones 4% of the time, the Mirror understands. Health Secretary Matt Hancock is set to announce the NHSX app has been scrapped - with the test and trace team putting all their efforts into a system offered by Apple and Google.

It follows months of warning by experts that the Government's in-house system would not work.

The Mirror understands the app under testing on the Isle of Wight only detected Android phones 75% of the time - and iPhones just 4% of the time.

Conversely, testing of the system offered by phone manufacturers was accurate 99% of the time.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

### **US sees nearly 700 more virus deaths in 24 hours**

By News24

The United States lost another 687 people to the new coronavirus in the 24 hours leading up to 00:30 on Thursday, according a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

It marks the eighth day in which the daily toll from the virus has been fewer than 1 000, even as the US remains the country hardest-hit by the pandemic with a total of 118 381 deaths out of a total of 2 187 876 official cases.

Some 20 states have seen a rebound in infections as the epicentre of the country's outbreak has moved from New York and the country's Northeast to the South and West. But the White House's chief infectious disease expert said on Thursday he does not think new widespread containment measures will be necessary.

"I don't think we're going to be talking about going back to lockdown," said Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, when asked if some states should re-issue stay-at-home orders.

"I think we're going to be talking about trying to better control those areas of the country that seem to be having a surge of cases."

# After Seeing How The U.S. Deals With Protesters, Scotland Votes To Stop The Supply Of Tear Gas, Rubber Bullets, And Riot Gear To The U.S.

By Andželika Jasevičiūtė  
BoredPanda staff



In light of recent events, the Scottish parliament took a stance against institutionalized racism and showed support to the BLM movement. The parliament has voted to end the export of rubber bullets, tear gas, and riot gear to the United States in order to help maintain the citizens' right to peaceful protests, which have been met with police force in many cities throughout the USA.

Last Thursday, the motion was put into place with the overwhelming support of 52 to 0 voting in favor and 11 abstentions. The motion says that the parliament "stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and considers that the UK government must immediately suspend all export licences for tear gas, rubber bullets and riot gear to the US."

The parliament also took the opportunity to address the country's historic links to the slave trade. The same amendment also called for the creation of a slavery museum in Scotland.

Patrick Harvie, co-leader of the Scottish Green Party, who proposed the successful amendment, called the police brutality happening in the US "appalling" and said that the Black Lives Matter movement is an inspiration for the whole world.

In case you are wondering, this is what a plastic bullet looks like.



"In the weeks since George Floyd's brutal murder the world has been watching the appalling systematically racist police brutality and the systematically racist political establishment in the US that underpins that inequality. The Black Lives Matter movement has been inspiring and it needs to be heard right around the world: that racism exists in this country as well," he said.

"I'm delighted that today the Scottish Parliament agreed a Green amendment in an anti-racism debate calling for an establishment of a Museum of Slavery to really shine a light on this country's grim past connections with slavery and how the inequality of that history perpetuates even now."

"But our amendment also called for an immediate halt of UK exports of tear gas, rubber bullets, and riot gear to the US. Those weapons of oppression are being used by a racist state and it is unacceptable for us to be exporting them, putting those weapons into the hands of people who will brutalise marginalised communities. It's important that we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement."

According to Insider, since 2010, the UK has supplied roughly \$7.53 billion worth of munitions to the United States, including over \$1 billion in firearms, \$22 million in less-lethal rounds like tear gas and rubber bullets, and more than \$2.5 million in riot shields.

However, the UK's licensing criteria states that material can't be sold if there is a "clear risk that items might be used for internal repression."

## New Zealand Is No Longer Coronavirus-Free After 2 Travelers Test Positive

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Zealand is no longer free from the new coronavirus after health officials say two women who flew from London to see a dying parent had tested positive.

But before they were tested, the women had been given an exemption to leave quarantine on compassionate grounds and had travelled from Auckland to Wellington by car.

Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said that as part of their travel plan, the women had no contact with any people or any public facilities on their road trip.

Nevertheless, the new cases have sparked a round of testing in New Zealand for anybody who might have been close to the women. That includes passengers and staff on their flights, which arrived via Brisbane in Australia, other people at the Auckland hotel they initially stayed at in quarantine, and a family member they met in Wellington.

The women remain in isolation in Wellington and have delayed the funeral of their parent until they have recovered. Until Tuesday, New Zealand had gone more than three weeks without any new cases and had declared that everybody who had contracted the virus had recovered, aside from the 22 people who died.

## China reports biggest coronavirus surge since April as second wave fears mount

By The Mirror

The National Health Commission confirmed there were 57 new infections in the country on Saturday. Xinfadi market in Beijing was closed after 45 people tested positive for Covid-19.



The Xinfadi wholesale market has been closed after new coronavirus infections were detected

Forty-five people out of 517 tested with throat swabs at the Xinfadi market in the city's southwestern Fengtai district had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Chu Junwei, a district official, said none of the people who tested positive for the virus were showing symptoms of Covid-19. The official added that 11 neighbourhoods near the market were locked down with 24-hour guards put in place.

Chu said: "In accordance with the principle of putting the safety of the masses and health first, we have adopted lockdown measures for the Xinfadi market and surrounding neighbourhoods."

He added the district is in a "wartime emergency mode" and tourism has been banned in the Chinese capital.

The entire Xinfadi market was shut down at 3am on Saturday after two men working at a meat research centre who had recently visited the market were reported to have the virus. The city government also said it had dropped plans to reopen schools on Monday to young pupils because of the new cases.

The market has 4,000 tenants and will be disinfected after workers there tested positive and the virus was found in the environment, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Beijing authorities had earlier halted beef and mutton trading at the market and had closed other wholesale markets around the city.

The chairman of the wholesale market told Beijing News that the virus had also been detected on chopping boards used to handle imported salmon.

According to the Xinfadi website, more than 1,500 tonnes of seafood, 18,000 tonnes of vegetables and 20,000 tonnes of fruit are traded at the market daily.

That concern also spread to other cities, with a major agricultural wholesale market in Chengdu, the capital of the southwestern province of Sichuan, saying it would remove salmon products from its shelves from Saturday.

In Nanjing, capital of the eastern province of Jiangsu, a local association of restaurants said it would halt the serving of foods containing raw seafood or animal products.

## Facebook takes down Trump ads over 'organized hate' policy

By Ayanti Bera and Elizabeth Culliford  
Daily Maverick



Facebook Inc said on Thursday it took down posts and ads run by the re-election campaign of U.S. President Donald Trump for violating its policy against organized hate.

By Elizabeth Culliford

The ads showed a red inverted triangle with text asking Facebook users to sign a petition against antifa, a loosely organized anti-fascist movement.

In a tweet on Thursday, the Anti-Defamation League's CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, said of the symbol: "The Nazis used red triangles to identify their political victims in concentration camps. Using it to attack political opponents is highly offensive."

The Facebooks were run on pages belonging to Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, and also appeared in ads and organic posts on the "Team Trump" page.

"Our policy prohibits using a banned hate group's symbol to identify political prisoners without the context that condemns or discusses the symbol," said a Facebook company spokesperson. "The inverted red triangle is a symbol used by Antifa, so it was included in an ad about Antifa," Tim Murtaugh, a spokesman for the Trump campaign, said in an email.

"We would note that Facebook still has an inverted red triangle emoji in use, which looks exactly the same, so it's curious that they would target only this ad. The image is also not included in the Anti-Defamation League's database of symbols of hate."

A spokesman for the ADL said its database was not one of historical Nazi symbols but of those "commonly used by modern extremists and white supremacists in the United States."

He also said that there have been some antifa who have used the red triangle, but that it was not a particularly common symbol used by the group.



## Australia under 'malicious' cyberattack from state actor

By News24



Australia's prime minister said on Friday his country was under a broad cyberattack from a "state-based actor" targeting government, public services and businesses, but declined to name the culprit.

Warning Australians of "specific risks" and an increased frequency of attacks, Scott Morrison told a hastily organised press conference that a range of sensitive institutions had been hit.

"This activity is targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors, including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure," he said. He levelled blame at a "sophisticated state-based cyber actor", that could be one of only a handful of states.

China, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Russia, the United States and a number of European countries are known to have developed cyberwarfare capabilities.

Suspicion will likely fall on Beijing, which has recently slapped trade sanctions on Australian products amid an escalating row over Chinese influence.

Australia enraged China by calling for an investigation into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic and accusing China of fuelling a virus "infodemic" and engaging in economic "coercion".

China - increasingly unwilling to tolerate criticism of its more aggressive foreign policies - has warned its students and tourists against going to Australia, threatened more sanctions and sentenced an Australian citizen to death for drug trafficking. Morrison said that he had notified the leader of the opposition and state leaders of the cyberattacks, which he described as "malicious".

He did not elaborate on what type of attacks had taken place, but said no personal data had been compromised and many of the attacks were unsuccessful.

"They are not new risks, but they are specific risks," he said, urging Australian firms and institutions to protect themselves. "We encourage organisations, particularly those in the health, critical infrastructure and essential services to take expert advice and to implement technical defences," he said.

That warning is likely to raise alarm bells as the country's medical facilities - already on crisis footing because of the coronavirus pandemic - could come under further strain.

## US sees nearly 700 more virus deaths in 24 hours

By News24

The United States lost another 687 people to the new coronavirus in the 24 hours leading up to 00:30 on Thursday, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

It marks the eighth day in which the daily toll from the virus has been fewer than 1 000, even as the US remains the country hardest-hit by the pandemic with a total of 118 381 deaths out of a total of 2 187 876 official cases.

Some 20 states have seen a rebound in infections as the epicentre of the country's outbreak has moved from New York and the country's Northeast to the South and West. But the White House's chief infectious disease expert said on Thursday he does not think new widespread containment measures will be necessary.

"I don't think we're going to be talking about going back to lockdown," said Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, when asked if some states should re-issue stay-at-home orders.

"I think we're going to be talking about trying to better control those areas of the country that seem to be having a surge of cases."

## Outrage after Bolivian TV broadcasts Covid-19 death

By News24

A TV channel sparked controversy in Bolivia on Thursday after it broadcast live the final minutes of a Covid-19 patient's life while doctors tried desperately to save him.

The "No Lies" programme said it took the decision to show a Covid-19 patient's death in a hospital in the eastern city of Santa Cruz to jolt into action authorities who had neglected the health services.

The programme airs nightly on the Santa Cruz-based PAT channel, in a region with some 60% of Bolivia's 21 000 cases and around half its 679 deaths.

The programme showed the patient's death over a 30-minute period as doctors tried to resuscitate the patient.

The country's ombudswoman, Nadia Cruz, slammed the broadcast for "sensationalism", saying it "repeatedly and morbidly" exhibited "images showing cardiopulmonary treatment being carried out on a person, which unfortunately ended in death".

The broadcast "evidently conflicts with the national legal order", Cruz said, adding that it "can generate a kind of collective fear".

Her office is an independent body appointed to investigate complaints against the government or public organisations. The broadcast was widely criticised on social networks, including by prominent journalists.

"What a lack of respect for the family, for the deceased. We lost a lot of things with this virus, including empathy," said journalist Maria Trigo, from the newspaper El Deber de Santa Cruz, in a Twitter message.

Fabiola Chambi, a journalist with the Cochabamba daily Los Tiempos said broadcasting the death showed "a lack of respect and humanity".

The government has yet to comment on the controversy.

## Dame Vera Lynn dies, aged 103

By Gareth Davies  
The Telegraph

*The Forces' Sweetheart, who lived in Ditchling, East Sussex, passed away surrounded by her close family, relatives said.*



Forces' Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn has died at the age of 103, the singer's family have said.

A statement said: "The family are deeply saddened to announce the passing of one of Britain's best-loved entertainers at the age of 103.

"Dame Vera Lynn, who lived in Ditchling, East Sussex, passed away earlier today, 18 June 2020, surrounded by her close family."

Earlier this year, ahead of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Dame Vera spoke of remembering "the brave boys and what they sacrificed for us".

The Queen referenced the title of one of the singer's most beloved wartime songs when she told the country, separated from families and friends during the coronavirus lockdown: *"We will meet again."*

Dame Vera was also fondly remembered for singing *The White Cliffs Of Dover*, *There'll Always Be An England*, *I'll Be Seeing You*, *Wishing and If Only I Had Wings*, raising British spirits during the Blitz.

"My songs reminded the boys of what they were really fighting for," she once said. "Precious, personal things rather than ideologies and theories."

Dame Vera later had her own television show and toured the world. She remained an outspoken supporter of military veterans throughout her life.

In May, she urged the nation to "remember the brave boys and what they sacrificed for us", adding: "They left their families and homes to fight for our freedom, and many lost their lives trying to protect us and our liberties."

In a special message before she turned 103 in March, she also encouraged the British public to "rediscover that same spirit that saw us through the war" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Dame Vera was born in East Ham, east London, on March 20, 1917. She performed for troops during the war, often at great personal risk, in countries including Egypt, India and Burma.

This May, the 103-year-old saw her greatest hits album 100 re-enter the chart at number 30, boosted by commemorations for the 75th anniversary of VE day on May 8, becoming the oldest artist to score a top 40 album in the UK.

Reaction: 'Warm, sincere, instantly recognisable and flawless' Singer Katherine Jenkins said: "I simply cannot find the words to explain just how much I adored this wonderful lady.

"Her voice brought comfort to millions in their darkest hours, her songs filled the nation's hearts with hope and her emotive performances, whether home or abroad, then or now, helped to get us through.

"It was she who chose the sentiments of her songs – she knew instinctively what people needed to hear, how to rally the morale, and her spirit and strength created the soundtrack of a generation. "There will never be another Dame Vera Lynn. Forces' Sweetheart and our sweetheart. An icon. A legend. An inspiration. My mentor and my friend. I will miss you greatly, and I know we'll meet again some sunny day."

# SPORTS NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

## Despite the sterile surrounds, City give Premier League positive start

By By Simon Evans  
IOL



**MANCHESTER** - It didn't look like a football match, it didn't sound like one and it didn't smell like one, but the goal of restarting the Premier League was achieved on Wednesday as Manchester City beat Arsenal 3-0 at the Etihad stadium. Although the absence of spectators, inevitably, meant a strange lack of atmosphere in the ground and for the millions watching on television globally, the rhetoric about the sport being pointless without fans, was not supported by the evidence of the 90 minutes on the field.

The league had officially ended its enforced three-month absence due to the coronavirus lockdown, with Aston Villa's 0-0 draw at home to Sheffield United a couple of hours earlier but the prime time slot was saved for title-holders City against 13-times champions Arsenal.

It was business as usual on the field with City deserved winners thanks to goals from Raheem Sterling, Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden while Arsenal were clear second-best, hampered by early injuries and the sending-off of error-prone substitute David Luiz soon after halftime.

Everything else about the night, however, was very unfamiliar.

Sterility was, of course, the goal. Outside the ground the food stands were closed, there were no fans gathered, no beers being drunk and the only indication of a game being played were security staff – like everyone else wearing face-masks.

The only reminder of a normal match night was the smell of the fish and chip shop adjacent to the ground, which wafted across the perimeter of the Etihad, without the usual competition from burger vans.

The small amount of media, staff and medical services, allowed into the ground had to undergo temperature tests outside the stadium after signing declarations about their health status.

Inside, City had tried their utmost to bring some sense of life to the empty venue with flags and banners placed on the bottom two tiers of the stands to cover up the empty seats.



Messages from fans around the world were broadcast on video-screens and the PA system did its best to replicate some of the usual soundtrack to a game with pre-match music and team announcements.

The players, as they have done in Germany's Bundesliga, Spain and Italy, who had returned to action in the past weeks, adjusted to the new reality of behind-closed-doors football well – quickly settling into the rhythm and intensity one would expect.

There were no signs of players lacking commitment or focus without the noise of a crowd and the only concern would be the two early injuries for Arsenal, which may reflect the impact of the enforced lengthy absence from the field.

But footballers can adjust to most things and if the collection of international stars needed any reminder of where they were despite all the strangeness, a traditional Manchester downpour at kickoff appeared to do the trick.



[LOAD FOOTBALL FIXTURES](#)

## South African doubles star Raven Klaasen says he's training in preparation for this year's US Open while some of his peers will sit the tournament out.

By by Qama Qukula  
Cape Talk

Klaasen has confirmed to CapeTalk host Refilwe Moloto that he is getting ready to play at the tournament in August.

*"As of now, the training is to be ready for August 14th. We might have to get into the US a little bit earlier than that if we have to do any quarantining."*

Raven Klaasen

The US Open will be held from 31 August to 13 September without spectators at New York's National Tennis Center.

It's understood that players will be tested for Covid-19 when they arrive at the tournament hotel, which opens August 15, and at least once a week thereafter.

The US Tennis Association is committed to safely staging the first Grand Slam since the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

However, many other tennis stars are questioning the wisdom of staging the event.

Klaasen says many of his peers are split about whether or not to partake in the US Open in New York because of safety concerns.

The Cape Town-based athlete says he plans on playing at the tournament in an effort to salvage his ranking.

*"If there's a way to get on a plane to go play, it will be hard for me not to given the fact that by not playing, you're sort of punishing yourself."*

Raven Klaasen

*"If they can't make it fair for everybody around the world to travel to get to the tournament, it's very difficult then to keep the ranking base fair. Players are having difficulty with that."*

Raven Klaasen

*"It's a very split crowd, just because of New York is such a hub for the Covid-19 virus."*

Raven Klaasen

Klaasen says it's been challenging to stay fit and active while being stuck at home for the past few months.

The doubles star came back to Cape Town, South Africa when the Davis Cup tournament was cancelled earlier this year.

*"In tennis or in any professional sport, trying to maintain conditioning for this long without really knowing when you're going to be back in competition is quite tough."*

Raven Klaasen

*"I've had my ups and downs, but I'm slowly getting my momentum back."*

Raven Klaasen

## England rugby fans could be BANNED from singing the iconic 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' song because it originated among slaves in America 150 years ago.

By WILL KELLEHER  
MAILONLINE



One of the game's biggest stars Maro Itoje has already expressed doubts about the anthem. In an exclusive interview with Sportsmail this week, he said: 'I don't think anyone at Twickenham is singing it with malicious intent, but the background of that song is complicated'

England rugby fans could soon be banned from singing Swing Low, Sweet Chariot at matches because of the song's ties with slavery, it has emerged.

The iconic anthem which rings round the stands at Twickenham is being reviewed by the Rugby Football Union, which has launched a wide-ranging probe into racism.

Written by a black slave in the American South during the nineteenth century, the song was first belted out by supporters when two black wingers - Martin Offiah and Chris Oti - became sporting heroes on the pitch at the end of the 1980s.

The RFU today announced its determination to 'accelerate change and grow awareness', but acknowledged how much of a battle cry the song is among passionate fans.

A spokesperson said: 'The Swing Low, Sweet Chariot song has long been part of the culture of rugby and is sung by many who have no awareness of its origins or its sensitivities.

'We are reviewing its historical context and our role in educating fans to make informed decisions.'

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, has become synonymous with English rugby - Twickenham itself is plastered with lyrics of the song, including the marketing mantra 'Carry Them Home'.

The song has often been covered and released as an official England World Cup song in the past.

It is thought to have been written by Wallace Willis, a Native American who before the Civil War was a slave in the Deep South.

A minister transcribed the words he heard Wallis singing and the African American group, The Jubilee Singers, popularised it as they toured around America, the United Kingdom and Europe in the early 20th century.

But it only became a mainstay among supporters in the late 1980s when wingers Offiah and Oti became firm fan favourites.

Offiah was nicknamed Chariots Offiah, a nod to the film Chariots of Fire, in reference to his lightning speed.

Phil McGowan, of the World Rugby Museum believes Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, was first used in 1987 while Offiah was playing as a nod to this nickname.

The footage of the song being sung during Offiah's performances was only unearthed earlier this year.

Before that, conventional wisdom suggested the anthem spawned among England fans a year later in 1988, when Oti crossed the whitewash three times for a hatrick.

Mr McGowan told the BBC the footage of Offiah 'solved the mystery of why on earth were they were singing this song'.

The recent wave of Black Lives Matter protests have put elements of Britain's chequered history under the microscope - and sparked calls to stamp out glorification of the colonial era's darker periods.

[READ MORE](#)

# 10 ways hotel stays will change after COVID-19

By ANDREA SMITH  
Lonely Planet Writer



*As the world slowly opens up again in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, our hotel stays are set to be organised differently. Some beloved practices have to be shelved - goodbye buffet breakfasts - and new protocols introduced to ensure that travellers and staff feel safe and protected. Here are some of the ways in which hotel stays will adapt from now on.*

## 1. Cleanliness

Travellers have always rated hotel cleanliness highly, but will be hyper-conscious and vigilant around it going forward. Hotels will need to demonstrate that they have implemented enhanced health and safety protocols for cleaning guest rooms, meeting spaces and common spaces in their properties, as well as back-of-house areas. It is expected that auditing initiatives will ultimately be implemented to measure hotel compliance with a stated criteria for cleanliness.

"Travellers are yearning for enhanced transparency around cleaning, hygiene and sanitisation measures at a property," says Pepijn Rijvers, senior vice president of accommodation at Booking.com. "It will be key for accommodation providers to openly display this information to help set accurate expectations and bring travellers additional reassurance as they search, book and begin to experience the world once again."

To help hotels meet these expectations, the American Hotel & Lodging Association has launched a program called Safe Stay to develop a series of best practices for the industry. "While hotels have always employed demanding cleaning standards, this new initiative will ensure greater transparency and confidence throughout the entire hotel experience," says its president and CEO, Chip Rogers.

Another protocol will be the deep-cleaning of bedrooms and bathrooms after guests check out. Under the new Hilton CleanStay program, a room seal will add an extra measure of assurance by indicating to incoming guests that their room has not been accessed since being thoroughly cleaned. There will also be extra disinfection of the most frequently touched guests room areas, including light switches, door handles, TV remotes and thermostats.

## 2. Dining

Who doesn't love starting the day off with a plate of muesli, scrambled eggs, sliced cheeses and meats, toast, strawberry yoghurt and a pain au chocolat? Alas, while we all adore the breakfast buffet, it may become a thing of the past. The problem is that social distancing will be impossible to maintain as we all crowd around various food and beverage stations, and the communal handling of jugs and tongs is just too risky going forward. It looks like individually plated and served meals will become the norm, or "grab-and-go" options, like the one offered by [Drury Hotels](#) in hotels where team-service models are not available.



Bowls of peanuts on bars and complimentary plates of cake in the afternoon are nice little touches previously offered by many hotels, but these will have to be eliminated for the moment to avoid people handling the plates and bowls. The idea will be to prevent cross-contamination by minimising guest contact with food and surfaces, and for this reason, Drury is also not currently offering its lobby afternoon popcorn. Sadly, it could also mean the end of beloved amenities like in-room minibars. Room service on a cart may be a thing of the past too, as you can expect to pick up your meal outside your door instead.

## 3. Technology

We all enjoy being welcomed at reception by smiling hotel staff, but some hotels will now implement automated self check-in procedures. Virtual check-ins and digital keys using your phone will be used at some hotels like Hilton. "Once registered, guests have the ability to check-in, select their room and use their phone as their room key, without ever having to interact with the front desk," says Phil Cordell, its global head of new brand development.

Viceroy Hotels & Resorts is now using Amazon Alexa in some properties to control the technology in guest rooms, and contactless or low-touch solutions around check-in and payment for goods and services is one of the recommendations of the U.S. Travel Association. "Travel businesses should consider implementing touchless solutions, where practical, to limit the opportunity for virus transmission while also enabling a positive travel experience," it says.

A LightStrike germ-zapping robot sanitising and disinfecting a guest room © The Westin Houston Medical Center  
Indeed, humans may not even be involved in cleaning at some hotels. The Westin Houston Medical Center is utilising "LightStrike Germ-Zapping Robots" to sanitise and disinfect its guest rooms and common areas, as they destroy viruses, bacteria and fungi using intense pulsed xenon UV light.

[READ MORE ON OTHER CHANGES WE CAN EXPECT](#)

# When will life return to normal OR will it?

By Visual Capitalist



## EXPERTS WEIGH IN When Will Life Return to *Normal*?

**COVID-19** has caused a massive shake-up of daily life, making us question everything from hugging our loved ones to getting a haircut.

According to a recent survey of 511 epidemiologists and infectious disease experts from the U.S. and Canada, here is how long it is expected to take before things can return to the status quo.

### LIKELIHOOD



THIS SUMMER



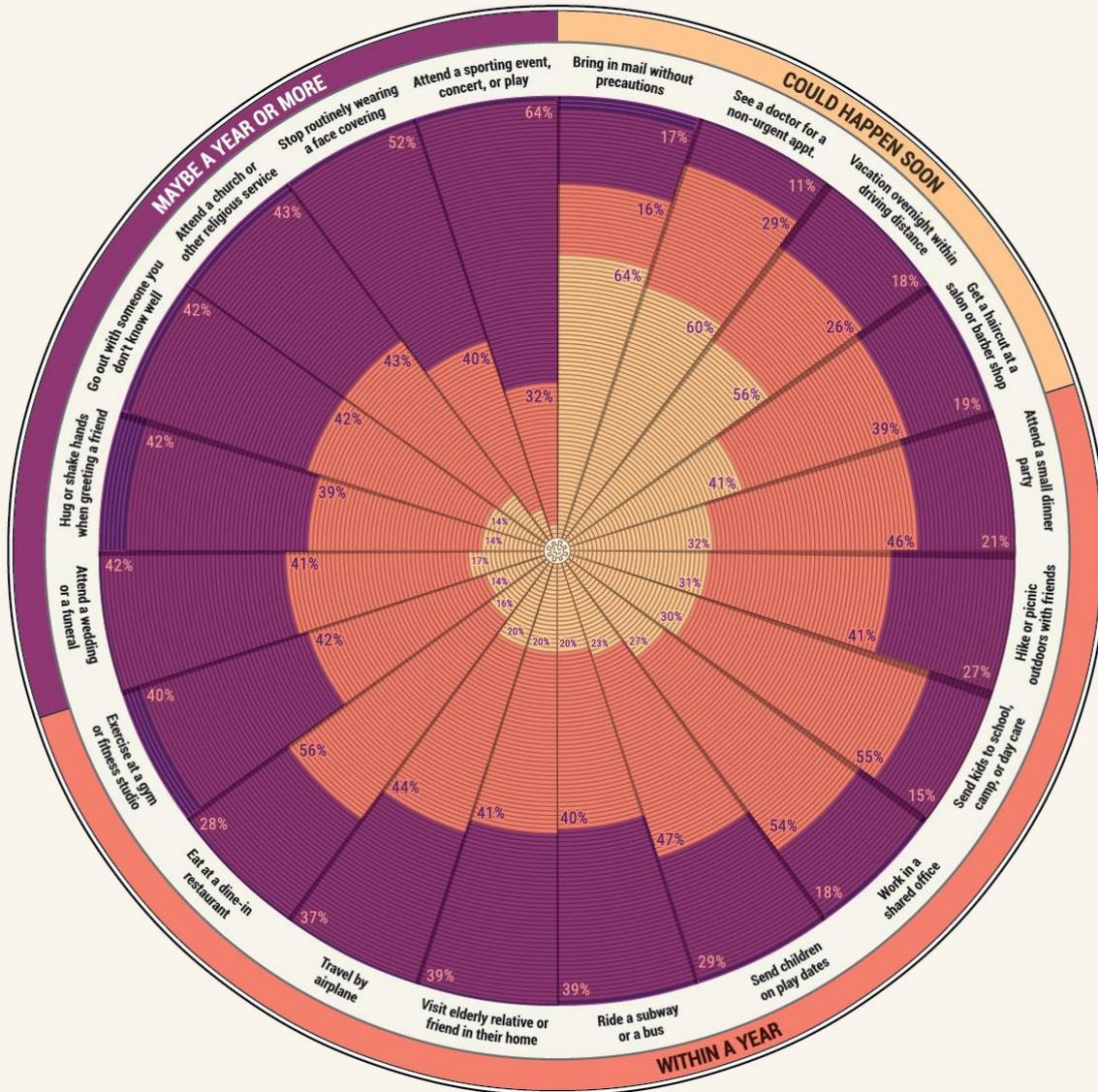
3-12 MONTHS



1 YEAR+



NEVER AGAIN



While these results are not meant to represent every situation nor serve as public guidelines, they reflect how experts are deciding to resume these activities based on health advisories.

**Ultimately, it's the virus that sets the timeline.**

# ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



## Meet African Rain Frogs That Look Like Angry Avocados And Have The Most Adorable Squeeks

By Ilona Baliūnaitė and Rokas Laurinavičius  
**BORED PANDA**



This frowning frog isn't actually disappointed or sad — that's just how the Black Rain Frog looks.

The species is only found on the southern slopes of the Cape Fold Belt in South Africa at elevations of up to over 3,300ft (1,000m). Since the Black Rain Frog is a burrowing species, it inhabits fynbos and forest fringes and doesn't even need the presence of open water!



When the Black Rain Frog feels disturbed and threatened, it will puff up and enlarge its body, adopting a more aggressive behavior.

But that doesn't mean that the Black Rain Frog hates company. On the contrary. Come mating season, the female will secrete a sticky substance on its back to keep the male from falling off; this is known as adhesive amplexus. It literally refuses to let go of its partner.



## *And here is the desert rain frog...*



Native to a small coastal strip of land between the African countries of Namibia and South Africa, it spends most of the day buried in sand dunes.

It has flanges on its back feet that act as little diggers to more easily navigate its coastal terrain.

The small patch of the world that they inhabit is prone to sea fog, which keeps the sand moist in an otherwise arid region. They have a patch on their bellies that is not only transparent but also has numerous blood vessels and capillaries through which they can absorb water directly from the sand.

As cute as it looks, it's the desert rain frog's ferocious roar that really made a name for it. While every frog species has a unique call, this one goes all out in defending its turf, as wildlife photographer Dean Boshoff bravely discovered when shooting at the dunes along Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape province.

[LISTEN](#)

## Topic: Beavers, Conservation, Climate Change, Devon, UK

### After an Absence of 400 Years, the Beaver is Back in the UK

By Goodnet

*The long-lost Eurasian beaver is a natural "engineer", bringing new life to a river in Britain.*



The River Otter flows through Devon, a quiet, pastoral region of England. Cattle and sheep graze beside the river and egrets perch on its banks. Yet one rodent is bringing sudden fame to this sleepy part of England; the Eurasian beaver now floats in the water, having made a mysterious comeback after 400 years.

This species of beaver, known as castor fiber, has been extinct in England for centuries. Once hunted for its fur, meat and scent glands, it simply disappeared. Yet in 2013, a beaver was spotted in the river. Two breeding pairs were found and tracked and today, there are eight pairs busily constructing dams, doing what beavers do best.

No one is sure how the beavers made their comeback. Some say they escaped from captivity, while other claim they were set loose by "beaver bombers," a kind of wildlife vigilante.

These furry rodents are creating quite a stir; a few local farmers and sports fishermen consider them a nuisance, while ecologists excitedly document the beavers' contribution to the ecosystem.

The River Otter Beaver Trial (ROBT), recently published by the University of Exeter, studied these beavers from 2015 until 2020.

The report concludes that beavers have positive effects on the environment, wildlife and people.

Beavers are "ecosystem engineers" - they shape the landscape in way that benefits both people and wildlife!

**They:**



Beaver dams are a complex feat of ecosystem engineering. They house double the amount of aquatic species than regular wetlands, creating a complex web of pools for fish and amphibians to safely spawn as well as a habitat for dragonflies, water voles and otters. Given that three-quarters of the ponds in England have disappeared and that ponds are home to one-third of aquatic species, beavers are crucial for preserving the ecosystem. Today, there are 37 percent more fish living in those pools created by beaver dams than elsewhere in the river reports The Guardian.

The dams also filter out chemical pollutants and manure from the river water. One study from Bavaria found that dam building from one single beaver can help absorb 28 kilograms of soluble nitrates that seep into the water from agricultural fertilizers.

The busy beaver even has a hand in tackling climate change by protecting local villages from flooding. One beaver family constructed six dams just upstream from the town of East Budleigh, slowing down flood waters and saving the town from flooding.

Beavers are also capturing the hearts of the British who now gather along the River Otter to "beaver watch." There are two walking paths along the river where ecotourism visitors can observe the beaver lodge and in season, watch the beavers at work. Local towns are also enjoying the spotlight, planning beaver-inspired events.

Ecologists and nature lovers are rallying for the beavers while the government decides on the fate of these rodents. Farmers complain of gnawed trees in orchards, beavers snacking on maize, collapsed river banks and flooded fields. The ecologists, on the other hand, are happy to placate farmers by installing "beaver deceivers," small underwater pipes that allow water to flow without the beavers even knowing.

One proposal is to place beavers in a caged area. Mark Elliott, from the Devon Wildlife Trust, reacted negatively to this plan.

"We're not zookeepers, we're conservationists and it's a native species to Britain so we shouldn't be having to keep them in with fences in the long-term," he said. The ideal plan would be to slowly reintroduce beaver pairs to select areas of the river and its tributaries.

As the beavers build, the river water is purified, aquatic species diversify and birds return to nest. Meanwhile, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is deciding on the fate of the Eurasian beaver. The government is slated to provide an answer to the beaver issue in September and if all goes well, the eminent beaver will gain recognition as a native species to England and can freely float down the River Otter.



## Rotary Virtual Convention Starts Saturday

[Sign up now](#) for Rotary's Virtual International Convention, which begins Saturday, June 20 with a grand plenary session at 8 a.m. Chicago time (UTC-5). There is no cost.

By signing up, you will get access to general meetings, the virtual House of Friendship, and 15 featured breakout sessions next week, including ESRAG's Greening Rotary Events panel (see above) where you can get a wealth of ideas on greening your own lifestyle, Rotary events, and Club meetings.

Once you register, Rotary International will send you an email explaining how to test your connection beginning Friday, June 19, and how to access all programs. The broadcasts will play in the default language on your browser.

Rotary will host several more virtual breakouts in July, including an ESRAG panel on Rotary's collaboration with the UN Environment Programme. By registering for the Virtual International Convention, you'll be able to sign up for the July workshops as well. Watch for details in our late June newsletter.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Giant 330kg squid washes ashore in South Africa

By Stuff



*Rare giant squid specimen is washed up on Golden Mile Beach in Britannia Bay near Cape Town, South Africa*

A giant squid has been found washed up on a beach in South Africa.

It is estimated to weigh around 330 kilograms and span four metres in length.

The sea creature was discovered by a couple on Golden Mile Beach at Britannia Bay, 160km from Cape Town. It has been collected for examination by scientists from Iziko Museums of South Africa and will be added to its display.

It's not known what killed the squid. Adele Grosse, who found the creature while out walking with her husband, told Live Science there were no bite marks or injuries visible, but noted there were big swells the previous night.

"It looked like a majestic prehistoric animal," Grosse said. Though it is quite large, it's not a record for South Africa. The largest squid found washed ashore was in Kommetjie, Cape Town in 1992. It measured 9.1m.

The squid will be added to the museum's collection of 19 giant squid - the earliest of which is from 1972.

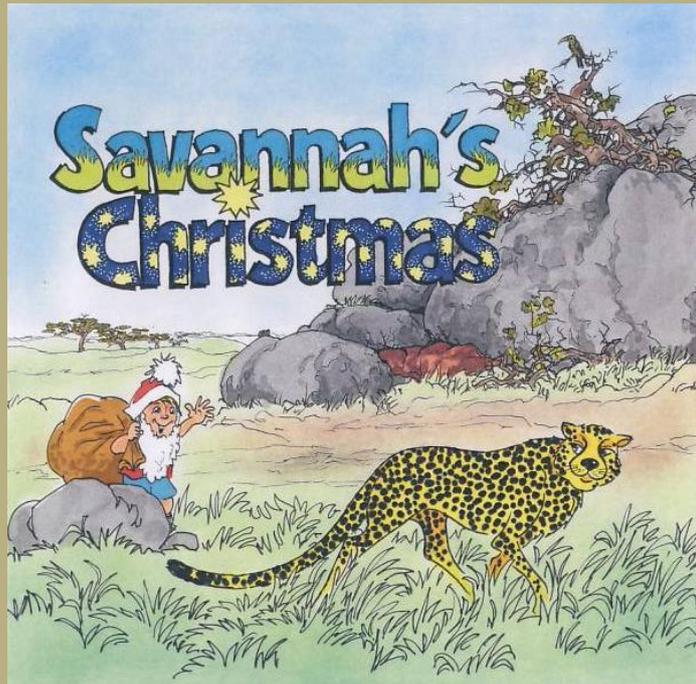
The museum's curator of marine invertebrates and marine biologist, Dr Wayne Florence, told News24 sightings of such creatures in South Africa were quite "rare".

"In South Africa, we have had less than a handful of sightings." Sightings of the sea creature are [much more common in New Zealand](#). Niwa fisheries scientist Darren Stevens previously told Stuff New Zealand was a bit of a hotspot for catching them.

"New Zealand is kind of the giant squid capital of the world – anywhere else a giant squid is caught in a net would be a massive deal. But there's been a few caught off New Zealand."

**EXTRACT from:**  
**“SAVANNAH’S CHRISTMAS”**  
**Book written by: *Stephan Pöltner***

This is a Christmas story written by Stephan Pöltner for his grandchildren. The book will hopefully be published and be for sale before Christmas. There will be a special edition with the author’s autograph for Rotary members.



“Wow, that’s a big cat. I’d like to have a cat like that!” shouted Nico when he saw Savannah.

“You must be pretty stupid to call me a cat. I am a cheetah and my name is Savannah. And who are you?” asked Savannah.

“I’m not stupid!” answered Nico.

Nico’s mother, sitting on the veranda of the lodge on a game farm, was puzzled by her little mite and asked, “Who says that you are stupid?”

“Savannah!”

“And who is Savannah?”

Nico pointed to Savannah who, with obvious enjoyment, stretched out on the veranda, “This big cat.”

“Nico, this is not a domestic cat like our pet Wilma, who you can stroke, but a cheetah.”

“But I want to stroke Savannah,” insisted Nico, but his mother grabbed Nico by the collar and said, “Kindly stay here with me: a cheetah is not a soft toy.”

“Finally, someone who knows that I’m a cheetah and not a cuddly toy.

Rather surprising for a tourist coming to the bush” murmured Savannah, stretching again.

Savannah was much bigger than Nico’s cat, who had had to stay at home, yet Nico hoped that he would be able to stroke her, at least a little bit.

Nico started to smile and called Savannah, “Come Savannah, I want to touch you.”

“But only if you tell me your name.”

“Mama, Savannah is stupid, she doesn’t know that my name is Nico.”

Savannah yawned and showed Nico her big teeth.

“Do you want me to eat you? You look like a snack to me ....”

“I’m going to punch you on the nose if you try to eat me. I am strong!”

“Nico, now stop this babbling. Animals can’t talk and they don’t understand what you say.”

“Is your mother always so odd? Typical of adults! They always know everything, but in fact, they haven’t got the slightest clue. But don’t worry, that’s how adults are. Now tell me, is your name really Nico? But hurry up and tell me, please,” said Savannah, waving her long tail slowly.

“Why are you moving your tail?”

“I’m starting to get impatient because you’re keeping me waiting,” growled Savannah, looking invitingly at Nico.

“I’ll tell you just now, but first I need something to eat. I am hungry.”

“If you don’t get a move on, my stomach is starting to rumble – and I assume you know what that means.”

“Mom, I’m hungry!”

“It’s almost lunch time, but you can have a banana.”

“If you’re very good, I’ll share my banana with you.” Nico took the banana and held it out to Savannah.

*Nico’s mother laughed and said, ‘Nico, cheetahs don’t eat bananas’*

# Things Are Getting Hairy



**FOLLOWING EVERY LEAD.**

**READY TO POUNCE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.**



**IT'S A DANGEROUS AND THANKLESS JOB...**

**BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT.**



**THE DRAMA.**

**THE EXCITEMENT.**

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