



188, 14th Road, Noordwyk, Midrand, 1685  
Private Bag X10, Marshalltown, 2107  
Tel: +27 10 493 2500 (Switchboard) | E-mail: info@judiciary.org.za  
www.judiciary.org.za

## MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF COURT TO CURB THE SPREAD OF COVID 19 IN ALL COURTS.

17 MARCH 2020

### DIRECTIVES ISSUED BY CHIEF JUSTICE MOGOENG MOGOENG IN TERMS OF SECTION 8(3)(b) OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS ACT, 2013.

**Whereas** on Sunday, 15 March 2020 Cabinet decided that:

- (i) Gathering of more than 100 people will be prohibited; and
- (ii) Where small gatherings are unavoidable, organizers will need to put in place stringent measures of prevention and control,  
in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa,

**Now, therefore,** the Heads of Court have decided to adopt the following measures:

1. Persons with a material interest in a case, such as litigants, accused, witnesses, those who may be needed to provide support such as those accompanying children, victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse, elderly and people with disabilities, family members, representatives of special interest or support groups and members of the media will be permitted to enter the court precinct.
2. All Court buildings shall be secured to avoid exposing Judicial Officers, court staff and members of the public to risk. To that end, the following measures shall be put in place:
  - a. Decontamination of reception and admission areas / community service centres, court rooms, cells / detention facilities, offices, lifts, vehicles, biometrics and ablution facilities; and all other objects that are generally touched by persons utilising the facilities including handles and taps.



- b. Floor and work surfaces of court rooms and the premises as well as work place, with special focus on maintenance and domestic violence, children's court, be disinfected with disinfectant material periodically, at least twice a day during working hours;
  - c. Assignment of officials who will sanitise hands of officials (including service providers), person in custody, inmates and visitors at all entry and exit points;
  - d. Installation of secured alcohol (ethyl alcohol 70%) based sanitizer dispensers at all points of entry, exit, work stations and in the passages/corridors;
  - e. All officials at reception, admission and operational areas shall be issued with appropriate protective equipment i.e. heavy duty gloves, disposable gowns, N95 masks, protective eye shields etc (as per the Department of Health SOP);
  - f. Gloves shall be sanitised between searches; and
  - g. Handheld infrared thermometers (scanners) shall be made available to conduct the temperature screening of Judicial officers, staff and members of the public.
  - h. Provision and disposal of biohazard material.
3. The Executive shall avail the necessary resources to ensure that access to justice is enforced in line with the principle that justice shall not only be done but must manifestly be seen to be done.
4. The Department of Health, with the coordination of the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, shall conduct assessments of the preventative measures at Courts.
5. It is imperative that all court buildings have running water, toilet paper, soap and disinfectant wipes and all other relevant health and safety material.
6. A distance of 1 meter shall be maintained between people seated in a court room.
7. Judicial officers and court staff must self-isolate and seek medical intervention if they display any symptoms. This also applies to those Judicial officers and staff members who have travelled to a high risk area or been in contact with a person who has



recently travelled or displays symptoms.

8. The Judiciary will be making proposals to the Executive for the need for the Judiciary to issue directives for courts and court operations.
9. The Judiciary urges all to comply with the directives and guidelines issued by the relevant Departments when dealing with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

