



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

Issue no. 26: July 2020

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Buffalo City Metro COVID-19 screening and testing

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Registration and screening of people at the Phelophepha train.



Community members entering the Phelophepha train to access services.

East London area has seen fast growing numbers of COVID-19 infections followed by Bhisho and King Williams Town areas, resulting to Buffalo City Metropolitan being one of the COVID-19 hotspot municipalities in the country. This necessitated the Department of Health, and all relevant stakeholders and partners to come up with best strategies to resolve and mitigate the rapid increase of infections in the near future. The intervention took place from 25 May to 5 June 2020.

Eastern Cape Health MEC Sindiswa Gomba approached the Transnet Phelophepha train to assist the metro to curb the spread of COVID-19. Transnet train management listened and considered providing intervention to the municipality to provide screening and testing services to the community of Mdantsane and surrounding areas, and the Buffalo City Metro in general.



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The arrival of the train also addressed the socio-economic issues, given the high unemployment rate in the country. The recruitment of cleaners, chefs, general assistants and community healthcare workers came as a relief to communities of Mdantsane.

Phelophepha train manager, Bheki Mendlula said, "The department has done a great job. When I got here in Mdantsane, a lot of ground work had been done already, and the department is ready from the side of professionals and the administration." He applauded the provincial leadership for showing their commitment in the fight against COVID-19.



Qhama Nyamza said:

"I am a healthcare worker, temporarily employed to assist during this period of the COVID-19. We receive people as they come and direct them to the correct places for registration and screening and later show them where the actual testing is done. This has at least brought employment to us, especially young people, as we are learning a lot from working here."



Nomtha Tshobonga said:

"We appreciate what government has done for us. We were worried that we will not be able to be tested for coronavirus since we would have to travel a long distance to get to the places where testing is done. Now we are able to walk to the train and get all the good service without spending even a cent. The process is quick, we do not wait on any queue."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 outreach campaign in Laingsburg

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape



Community member holding the COVID-19 information flyer.



The handing out of flyers to members of the community.

The Government Communication and Information System and Laingsburg Municipality, in partnership with community development workers, the South African Police Service and the Neighbourhood Watch held a multi-stakeholder COVID-19 campaign in Laingsburg on 1 July 2020.

Executive Mayor Mike Gouws led the campaign with loud hailing in the community to encourage adherence to the Level 3 lockdown regulations. He also reiterated that community members can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by keeping a distance of 1.5 metres from other people, regularly washing or sanitising their hands, wearing a cloth mask in public, cleaning surfaces regularly and avoiding crowds and gatherings.

Simultaneously, stakeholders involved in the campaign targeted the town putting up COVID-19 awareness posters at businesses and engaged with community members on the ground to encourage citizens to take responsibility for their safety and that of others.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Tshwane COVID-19 mass screening and testing

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Community members waiting to be screened and tested for COVID-19.



Health and community workers at the mobile clinic at Denlyn Mall.

Government's effort to fight and reduce the spread of coronavirus received a boost when Region 6 of the City of Tshwane's COVID-19 Regional Task Team conducted mass screening and testing outreach campaign at Denlyn Mall in Mamelodi on 3 July 2020.

The City of Tshwane is one of the COVID-19 hotspots areas in Gauteng. In response, the City's COVID-19 Command Council together with the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) launched regional task teams that will ultimately lead the Ward Based War Room teams to spearhead the district hotspot interventions.

The mass screening and testing outreach in Mamelodi was a multipronged campaign aimed at raising awareness about the pandemic, screening and testing as many people as possible, and distributing publications. Around 1 400 people were screened for COVID-19, 116 tested and 172 referred to health facilities during this outreach.

Thozama Lande, the campaign's facilitator from CoGTA said that the aim of the programme was to raise awareness, screen and test for the coronavirus and urge everyone to play their part to stop the spread of the virus.

"As the country grapples with a surge in coronavirus cases, it is important to play your part to stop the pandemic. Please continue to wash your hands with water and soap, or sanitise regularly, wear a cloth mask, practise social distancing and cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or tissue paper," said Lande.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Nkangala District COVID-19 awareness campaign

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Belfast Police Station received its COVID-19 hotspot poster.



Emalahleni Head of Communication Lebogang Mofokeng ready to mount COVID-19 hotspot posters at a fuel station.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) continues to work with different stakeholders to raise awareness on COVID-19. On 13 July 2020, Nkangala District Communication Forum joined the GCIS in distributing COVID-19 hotspot posters to affected areas in the district, which includes clinics, municipal offices, government departments and public areas such as fuel stations.

The campaign is aimed at making people aware of the pandemic and also encouraging them to always wear masks and practise social distancing. The eMalahleni COVID-19 Command Team welcomed the hotspot posters as the municipality has high number of COVID-19 cases. Through the Nkangala District Communication Forum, stakeholders continue to share information and raise awareness among communities.