

5 April 2022

Dear Valued Member,

TERMINATION OF THE NATIONAL STATE OF DISASTER

On 4 April 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa terminated the National State of Disaster which was in effect to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 were implemented through regulations under the Disaster Management Act which was been repealed due to the termination of the National State of Disaster. Going forward, the pandemic will be managed in terms of the National Health Act. The draft Health Regulations have been published for public comment.

Until the new regulations under the National Health Act are promulgated, The Disaster Management Act provides that certain elements of the regulations may remain in place for a limited period for “post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation”. That means that certain transitional provisions will remain in place for **30 days** after the termination of the National State of Disaster to ensure essential public health precautions and other necessary services are not interrupted while the new regulations in terms of the National Health Act come into effect.

The transitional measures, **which will automatically lapse after 30 days from 4 April 2022**, are the following:

1. It is compulsory to **wear a face mask in an indoor public space**. A mask is not required when outdoors.
2. The **existing restrictions on gatherings will continue** as a transitional measure. This means that both indoor and outdoor venues can take up to 50 percent of their capacity

without any maximum limit, provided that proof of vaccination or a COVID test not older than 72 hours is required for entrance to the venue.

3. The **existing provisions concerning international travel remain in place**. This means that travellers entering South Africa will need to show proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours.
4. The directions that provide for the **payment of the special R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant will remain in place**. This will enable the Department of Social Development to finalise the regulations that will allow the payment of the grant to continue.
5. The directions that provide for the extension of the **validity of a learner's licence, driving licence card, licence disc, professional driving permit and registration of a motor vehicle** will remain in place.

All other disaster regulations have fallen away at midnight on 4 April 2022.

We will, as always, keep our members informed on the latest developments in this regard and more specifically, the development in respect of the regulations in terms of the National Health Act.