



**Western Cape
Government**

Health

DIGITAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Health Update

Dr K Cloete

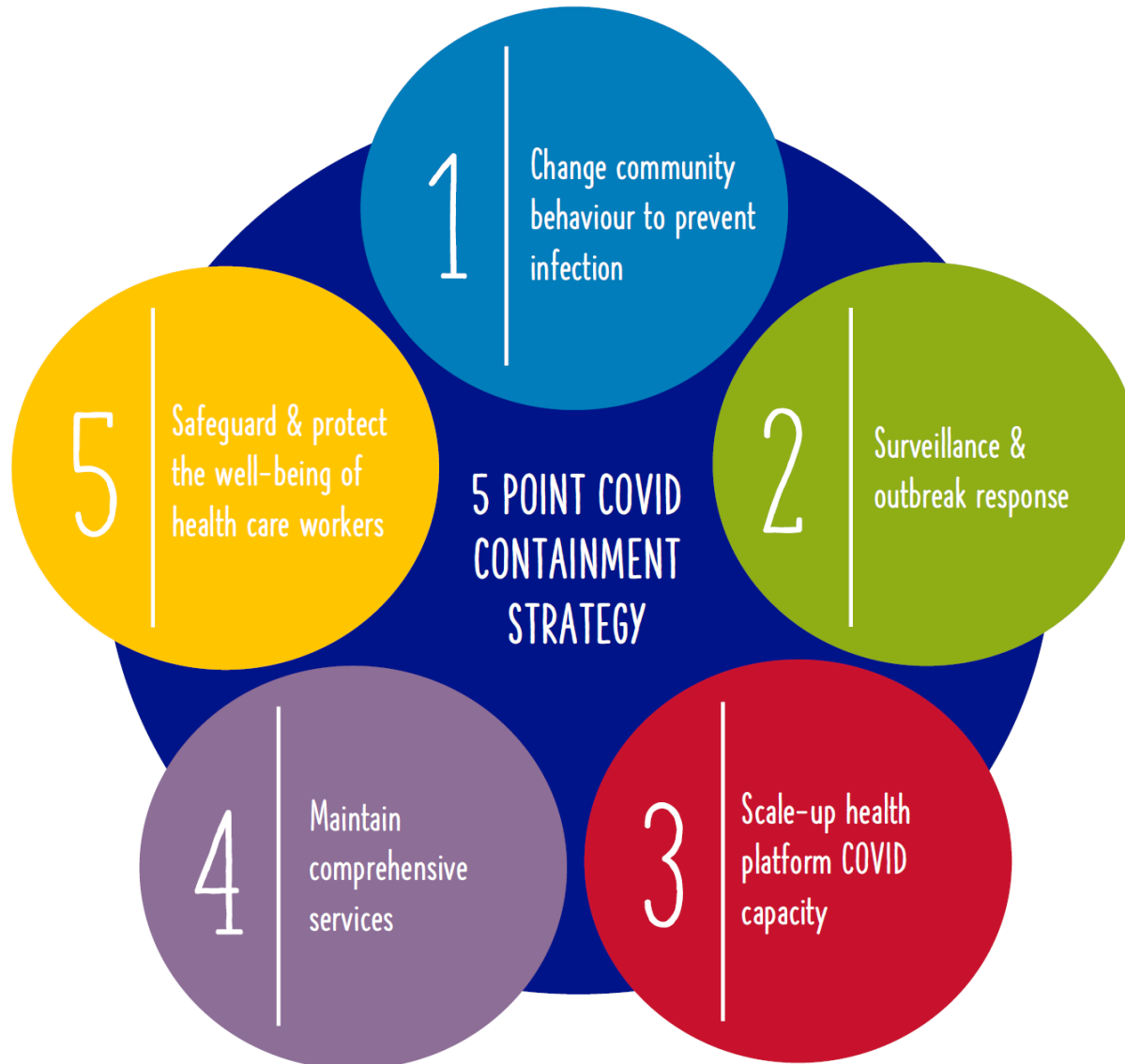
15 December 2020

Overview

1. 5-point COVID Resurgence Strategy
2. Surveillance & Response Update
3. Scaling up health platform COVID capacity
4. Scaling down non- COVID capacity
5. Safe-guarding well-being of health care workers
6. Conclusions

5-point COVID Resurgence Strategy

5-point COVID Containment Strategy



5-point COVID Containment Strategy

1. Change community behaviours to prevent infections:

- a) Ongoing **strong, bold central public messaging** and **targeted local messaging**
- b) Co-ordinated **Provincial, District and local JOC enforcement**, lead by Law Enforcement and EHPs

2. Surveillance and outbreak response:

- a) The **surveillance** and **outbreak containment strategy** continues, with **established community transmission**
- b) The **daily huddles** continue to identify, track and contain **potential local outbreaks**

3. Scale up health platform COVID capacity:

- a) The **PHC and hospital COVID capacity** are being scaled up in **each geographic area**, as cases increase
- b) The local teams use **trigger points** for **step-wise escalation** of **PHC, inter-mediate, acute** and **critical care** access

4. Scale down con-COVID services:

- a) Ensure a **core quantum of essential non-COVID services** be maintained, while **scaling up COVID capacity**
- b) Actively **reducing non-COVID services** to allow for COVID capacity, in the face of **alcohol-related trauma**

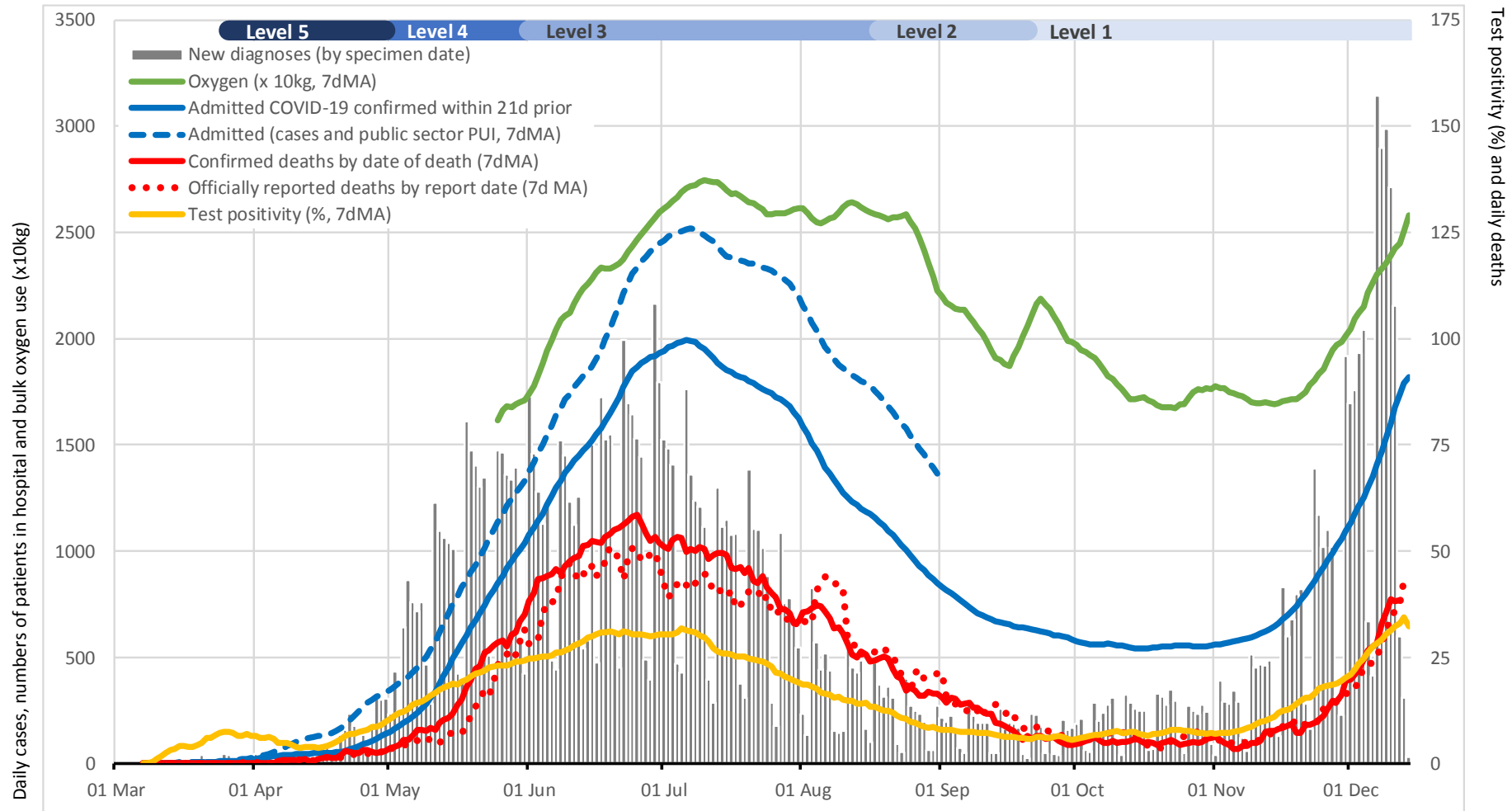
5. Safe-guard and protect well-being of health care workers:

- a) Ensure **sufficient PPE supplies** to protect all front-line staff members
- b) Implementing **OHS policy fully**, including addressing **mental well-being** for staff

Surveillance & Response Update

Integrated testing, case, hospitalisation and mortality trends

(by event dates, until 14 December 2020)





Provincial Resurgence Overview

Health Impact Assessment
WC Department of Health
Last Updated:

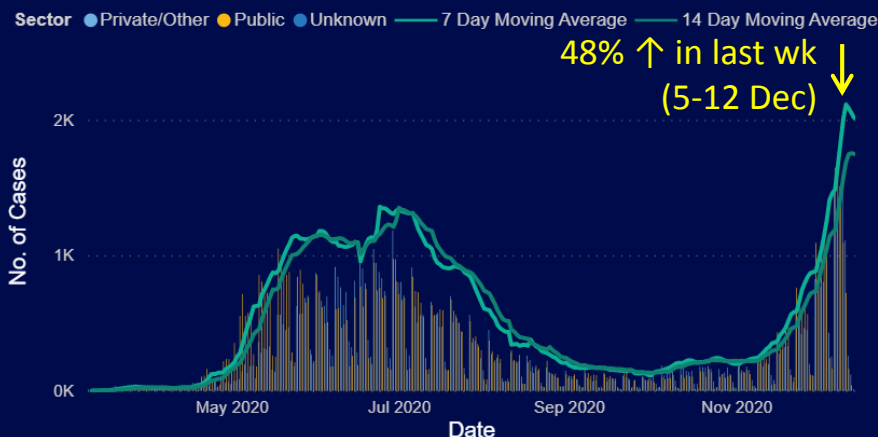
Monday, 14 December 2020



Select District, Subdistrict:

- ☐ Cape Winelands
- ☐ Central Karoo
- ☐ City of Cape Town
 - ☐ Eastern
 - ☐ Khayelitsha
 - ☐ Klipfontein
 - ☐ Mitchells Plain
 - ☐ Northern
 - ☐ Southern
 - ☐ Tygerberg
 - ☐ Western
- ☐ Garden Route
- ☐ Overberg
- ☐ West Coast

No. of Cases, 7 Day Moving Average and 14 Day Moving Average by Date and Sector

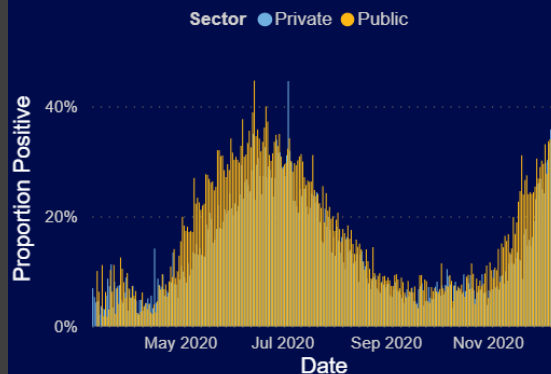


3/10/2020

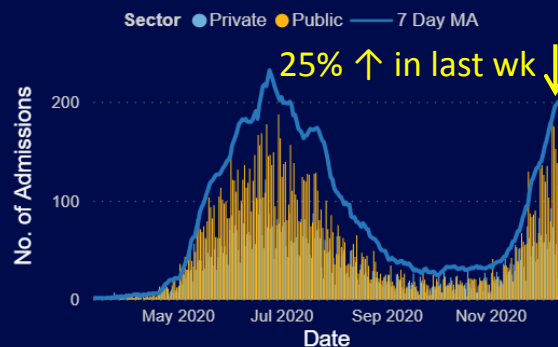
12/14/2020



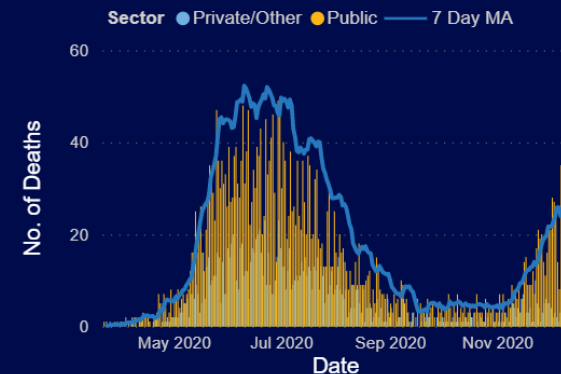
Proportion Positive by Date and Sector



No. of Admissions and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector



No. of Deaths and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector



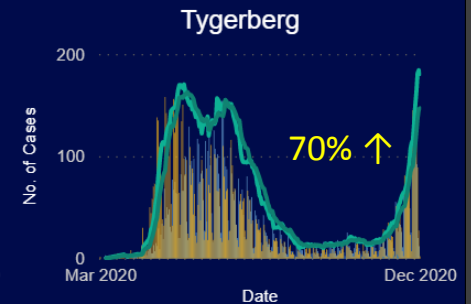
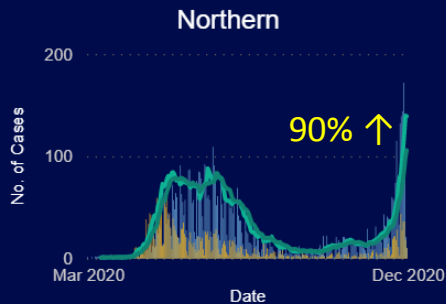
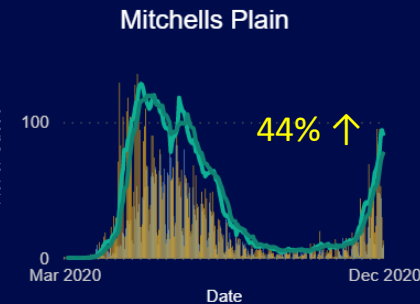
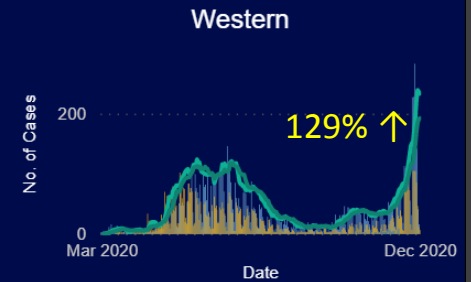
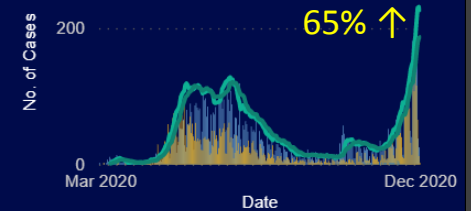
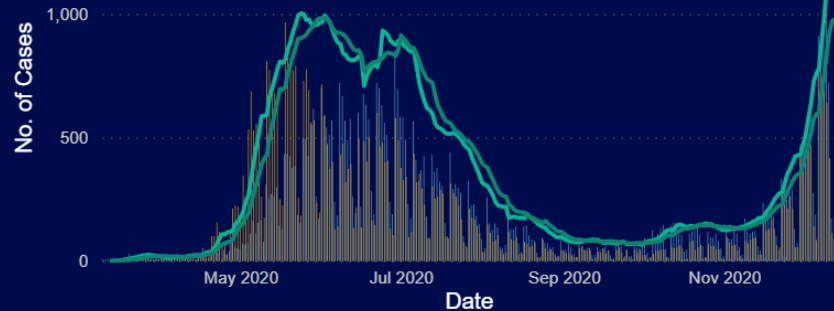
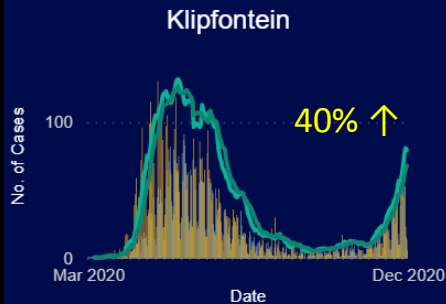
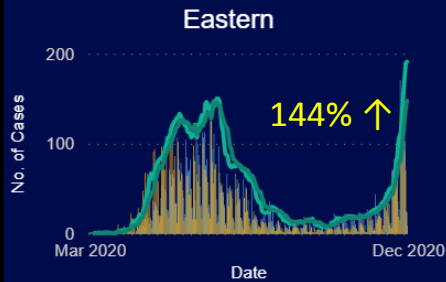
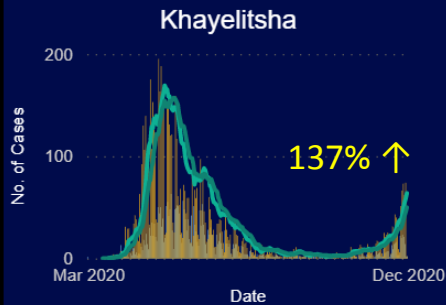
Provincial Overview

- The Province as a whole continues to see a marked increase in cases taking us **well above levels previously seen in June**. Hospitalisations and deaths have increased sharply since mid- November.
- The % proportion positive continues to rise and is now **35-40%**, at the same level of our previous peak of 40%.
- The key message is that **hospitalisations and proportion positive** are rapidly headed toward **levels seen at the peak of the first wave**. We must also be mindful that this time, we do not have the protection of a lockdown or an alcohol ban.

Metro Overview: No. of Cases with 7 and 14 Day MA by Date and by sector

Sector ● Private/Other ● Public ● Unknown ● 7 Day Moving Average ● 14 Day Moving Av...

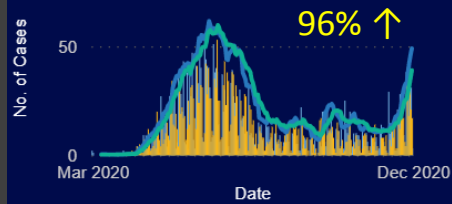
67% ↑ in last wk
(5-12 Dec)



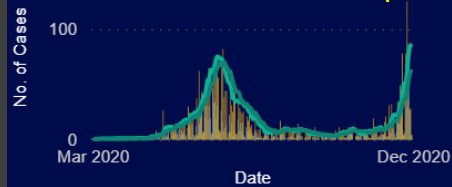
Metro Overview

- The Metro continues to see a sharp increase in cases and has exceeded case numbers from first peak.
- The patterns differ between subdistricts, but all areas show an increase in cases.
- The Southern, Western, Eastern, Northern and Tygerberg sub-districts show a stark and rapid increase in cases, with the 7 day moving average line exceeding the first peak for these sub-districts.

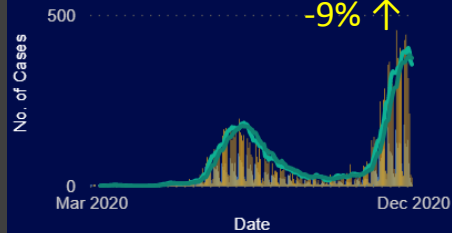
West Coast



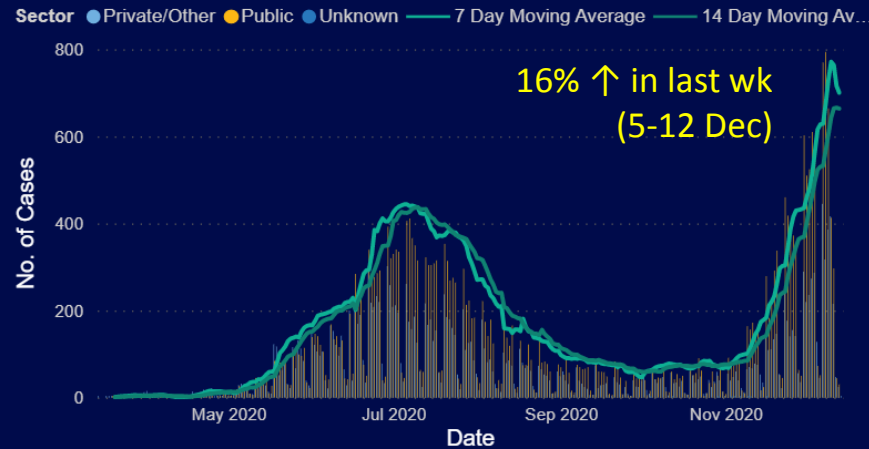
Overberg



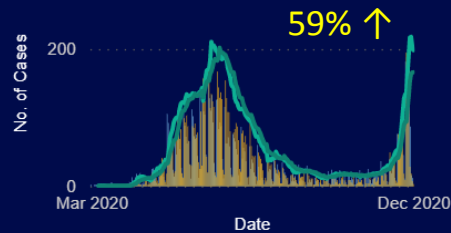
Garden Route



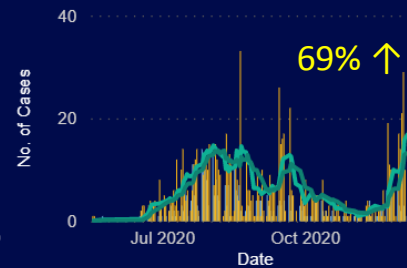
Rural Overview: No. of Cases with 7 and 14 Day MA by Date and by sector



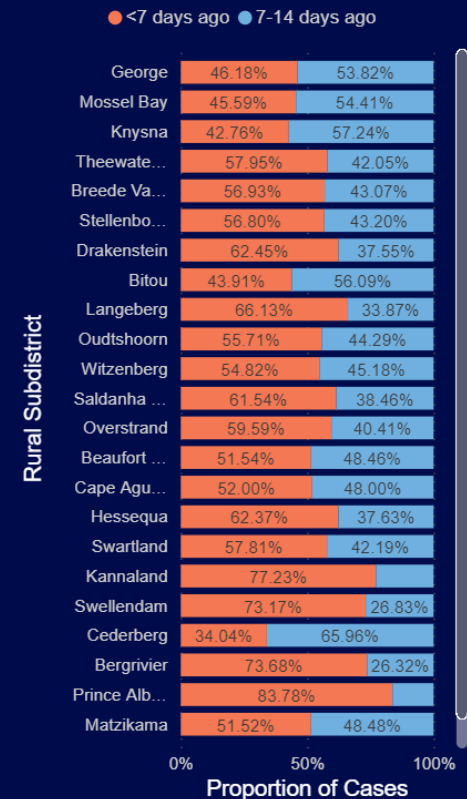
Cape Winelands



Central Karoo



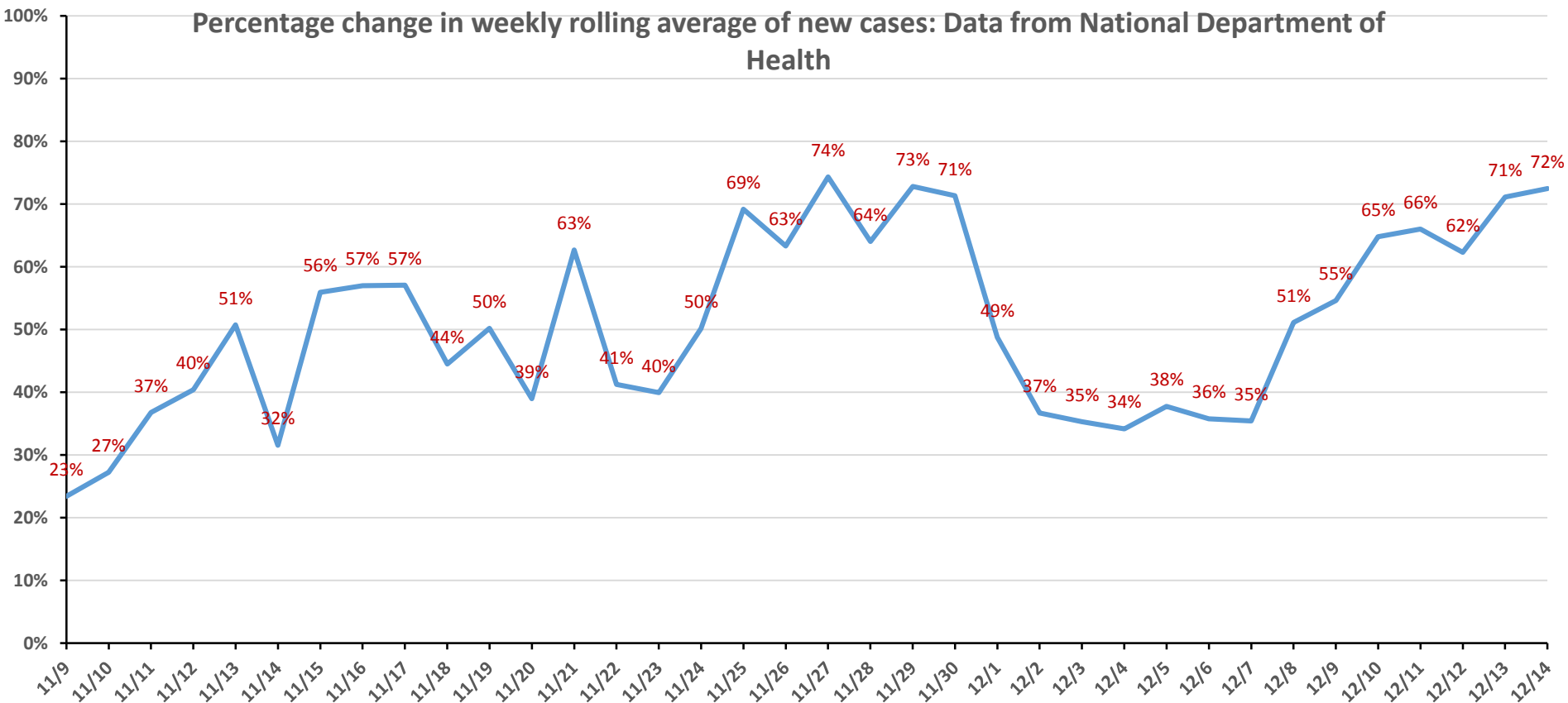
Proportion of Cases by Subdistrict for last 7 days vs 7-14 days ago



Rural Overview

- Rural has exceeded its first peak.
- The Garden Route has also exceeded its first peak, but there are early signs that cases are stabilising.
- Cape Winelands, Central Karoo and Overberg have also exceeded maximum daily case numbers of first peak. West Coast is on an upward trend.

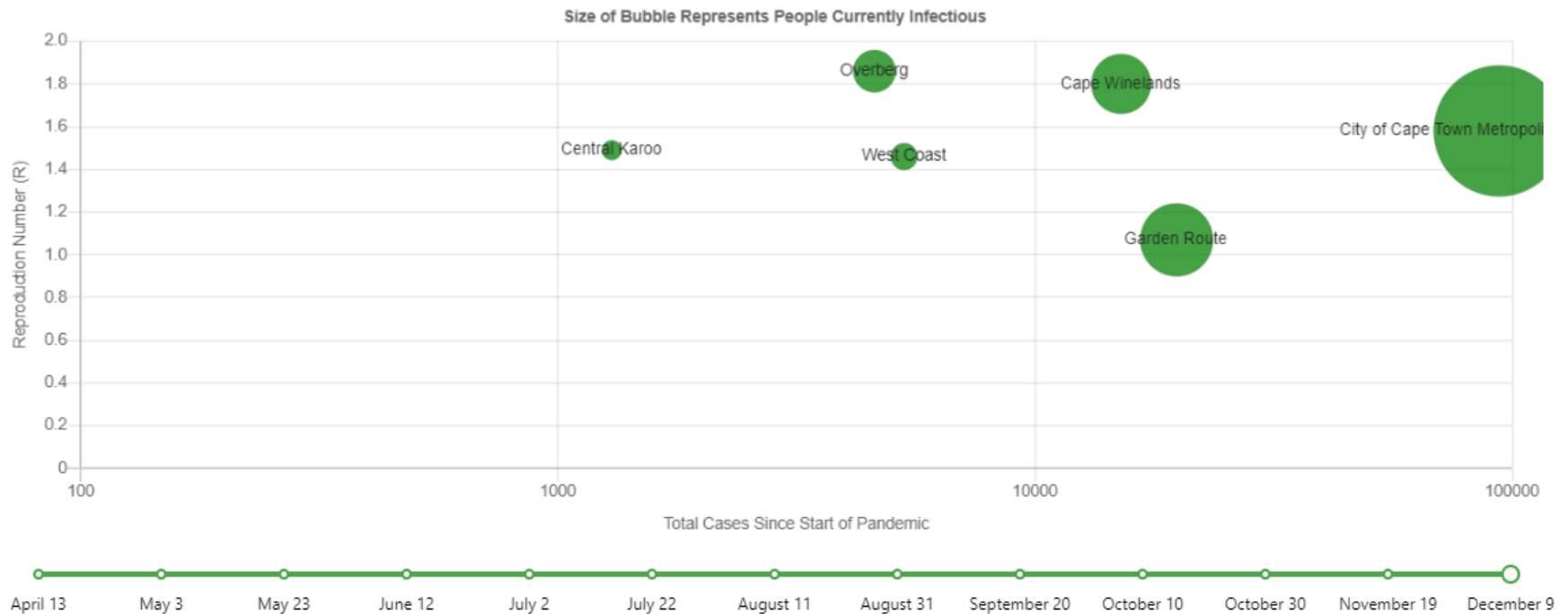
Growth in cases based on NDoH reported case numbers



- Using NDOH data , we see that the percentage change in the weekly average of new cases is **72%**
- If we look at the Western Cape Data from the daily report, the percentage change in the weekly average of new cases is **74.3%**
- The entire Province is experiencing a rapid increase in new cases.

Net reproductive number

Western Cape: $R \approx 1.46$



Source: reproduction.live

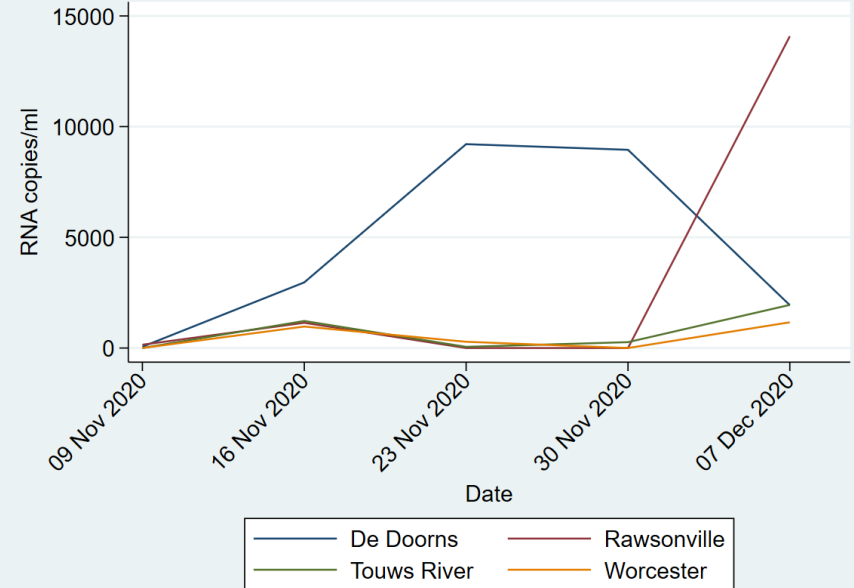
Triangulating with wastewater

SAMRC COVID- 19 AND WASTEWATER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

WEEK 48
update

City of Cape Town, Breede Valley AND Overberg

Category 3 (Upper SARS-CoV-2 RNA Signal)



On average: ↓ SARS-CoV-2 RNA in wastewater this wk. vs last week

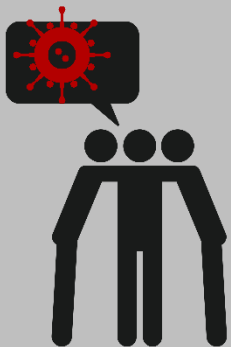
Still some areas with steep ↑ including:

Mitchells Plain, Wesfleur domestic & Scottsdene (Metro)

Rawsonville (Rural)

14 December
2020

Surveillance Huddle Report



14 December 2020:

Surveillance Huddle

Key points:

1. Increase in case numbers overwhelming contact tracing teams
2. Increase in hospitalisations putting strain on services
3. Complaints of increased lab turnaround time
4. Increased infections among health workers resulting in absenteeism- this is increasing the pressure on health services
5. While there are identifiable clusters, it is otherwise widespread community transmission.

KESS

Increase in case numbers

Admissions and deaths are increasing, and hospitals are taking a lot of strain.

NTSS

Our tracing team is struggling with the caseload they receive daily

Hospital admissions increased

Still household cases, cluster at M-Kem Pharmacy, which our EHO is already attending to

Cape Winelands

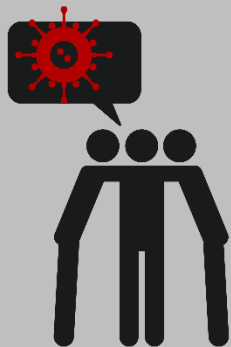
Witzenberg: 217 active cases. Community spread, no work clusters. Ceres hospital burdened with PUI and Covid admissions in EC and ward. EC load trauma cases.

Langeberg: 273 active cases, 40 - 60 new cases per day.

Bonnievale: community transmission and a few local clusters noted.

14 December
2020

Surveillance Huddle Report



Stellenbosch: 263 *active cases*. Community spread (all areas affected). Kayamandi and Idas Valley are areas of concern

Load on hospital with symptomatic patients and load on EC. Adequate capacity for admissions.

Drakenstein: >245 active cases, 72 new.

Established community transmission and family clusters. No new clusters

Breede Valley: 343 active cases, 199 private. No clusters other than occasional households. Widespread also on farm areas.

Taxis do not adhere to mask wearing.

Turn around time for all sub districts a real challenge and impact on hospital PUI's.

Central Karoo

Increase in cases

Nelspoort - 2 staff members. 14 of the 18 psychiatric patients at Nelspoort Hospital de-isolate tomorrow. Q & I site in Beaufort West 71% full. Only site available in the district.

Overberg

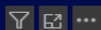
Rapid increase in positive cases in all subdistricts

No super spreader events that we know of, household clusters

Workplace and community spread

People do not adhere to isolation and quarantine rules

Correct mask wearing big issue



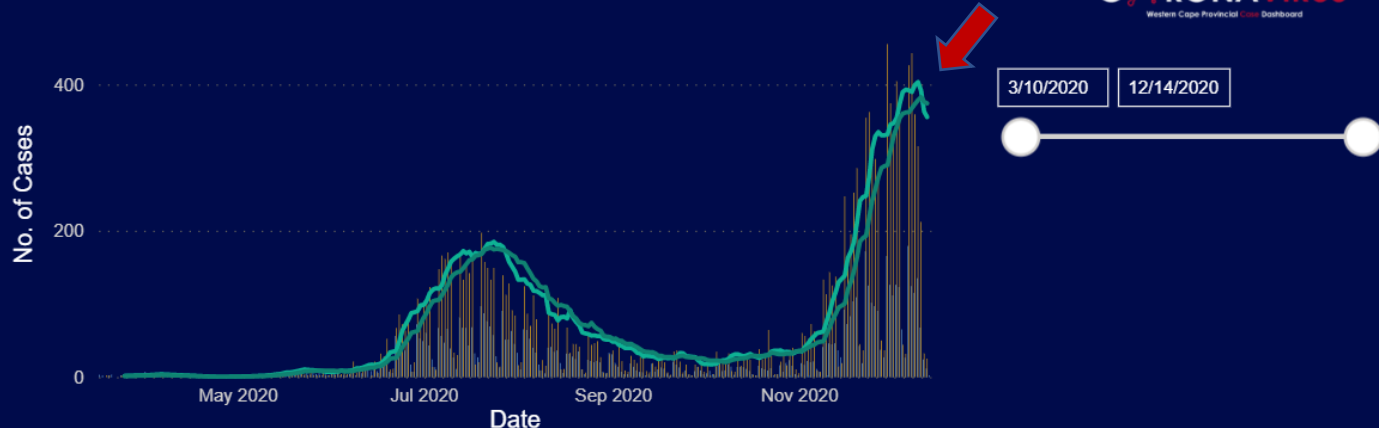
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- ☒ Garden Route
- ☐ Overberg
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Provincial Resurgence Overview

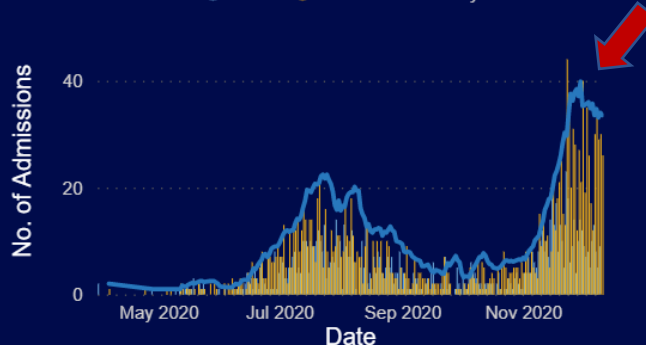
No. of Cases, 7 Day Moving Average and 14 Day Moving Average by Date and Sector

Sector ● Private/Other ● Public ● Unknown — 7 Day Moving Average — 14 Day Moving Average



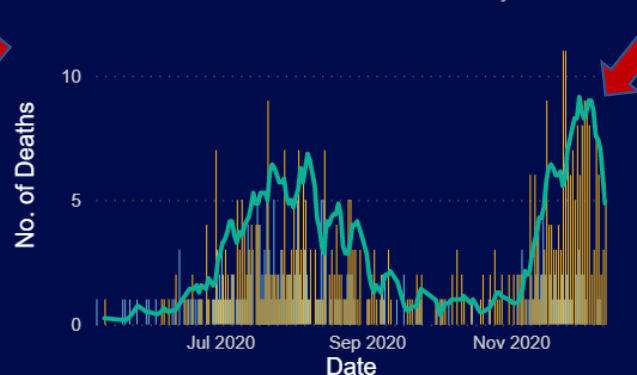
No. of Admissions and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector

Sector ● Private ● Public — 7 Day MA



No. of Deaths and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector

Sector ● Private/Other ● Public — 7 Day MA



Garden Route

The 7 day and 14 day moving averages have crossed, with the 7 day moving average now moving below the 14 day moving average.

These are positive signs in the Garden Route, but this trend may be reversed by super spreader events.

The Garden Route is currently showing an increase in incidence of cases in Hessequa, Kannaland, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn

Data show that both hospitalisations and deaths in the Garden Route are decreasing.

14 December 2020

Surveillance Huddle Report- P1

Garden Route

Garden Route and Central Karoo Districts Daily Huddle 14 Dec 2020

Hessequa

1. New cases: 32 over weekend
 - Riversdale 14, Albertinia 10, Heidelberg 3, Melkhoutfontein 4, Still Bay 1
 - NHLS 27 and Private lab 5
 - Age: wide variation from 20 – 70 years

Mossel Bay

1. New cases: 205 over weekend
 - Asla and Kwanonqaba main areas
 - NHLS 134 and Private 71
 - Age: 30-39 years
 - Correctional Services - one additional positive; now 23 (9 staff and 14 inmates)

George

1. New cases: 296 over weekend
2. Active cases: 1791
3. George Hosp: 76 patients
4. Private Hosp: 40 patients
5. Harry Comay Hosp: 35 patients (looking to consolidate Ward 5 & 6 so as to free up staff to open the pod unit)
6. Uniondale Hosp: 3 patients
7. Gateway Q/I site: 22 residents
8. 9 deaths over the weekend from the three George hospitals

George Hospital

1. Some undertakers have reached maximum capacity; getting report later today so that we can plan way forward; may be necessary for mobile mortuary container from CT

Knysna/Bitou

1. New cases: 204 over weekend
 - there may be a decrease in new numbers – to observe
 - wide distribution
2. Active cases: Knysna about 300 and Knysna 120 (busy finalizing)
3. Knysna Hosp: patients 33 patients of whom all are on oxygen or HFNO
4. 6 deaths
5. Issues:
 - Urgent decision needed on PCR test for neg antigen test
 - Urgent clarity needed on use of KN95 masks; Mr Brickles to follow up

14 December 2020

Surveillance Huddle

Report- P2

Garden Route

Kannaland

1. New cases: 48 over weekend (very high number)
 - Mainly in Ladismith and then some in Calitzdorp
 - Multiple staff members pos in Calitzdorp Clinic; others being tested today. Challenge for service delivery but making a plan; facility temporarily closed for decontamination
2. Tests done: 68
3. Active cases: 67 (very high number)
4. Lab TAT: just over 48 hours
5. Ladismith Hospital: 3 patients

Oudtshoorn

1. New cases: 55 over weekend
2. Tests done: 35
3. Pending: 56
4. Active cases: about 350, busy finalizing
5. Oudtshoorn Hosp: 32 patients (high number)
6. Private Hosp: not available
7. 1 death

Central Karoo

1. New cases: 54
 - Beaufort West 33, Nelspoort 6 (not patients in hosp), Prince Albert 6, Leeu-Gamka 5 (a concern), Laingsburg 4
 - No new patients from Nelspoort Hosp
2. Active cases: 274 (Beaufort West 239, Laingsburg 5, Prince Albert 30)
3. Beaufort West: 19 patients
4. Q/I site: 71% full
5. 1 death in Beaufort West

General

1. Request for CST from smaller towns: communities are becoming concerned and many are asking for CST

Urgent issues

1. Assessment of undertaker situation in George; possible commissioning of mortuary container needed
2. Delayed TAT for NHLS for Mossel Bay
3. Antigen testing: Need answer re management of negative antigen tests and SMS messaging
4. Clarity of use of KN95 masks

Garden Route: Containment Strategy - Overview

- The Garden Route remains under pressure with increasing incidence of cases in Hessequa, Kannaland, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn, with a slowing in George, Knysna and Bitou
- The health platform remains under severe pressure.
- Health worker infections are a major concern, particularly in George.
- Surveillance using available data and on the ground knowledge. Daily district surveillance huddles continues.
- Intensified screening, testing and contact tracing as well as outbreak cluster management, in targeted and selective instances.
- Communication campaign using social media to encourage positive behaviour change.
- Managing and mitigating hospital capacity availability.
- COVID-19 Antigen testing has assisted, but test turn around times have increased.
- Multisectoral response including health, local government, law enforcement, education, private sector, etc.
- The President has declared the Garden Route a hotspot.

Scaling up health platform COVID capacity



Scaling up COVID capacity – general comments

1. PHC capacity:

- a) The PHC facilities facing **increasing demand** for **COVID testing**, and providing **triage** for **confirmed cases**.
- b) Systematic **de-escalation** of **non-COVID PHC services**.

2. Hospital capacity:

- a) **6 736 acute** public sector beds (including **630 additional beds**) and **381 critical care** public sector beds (including **135 additional beds**)
- b) Potential for **180 additional beds** in Metro, depending on **oxygen points** and **availability of staff**.

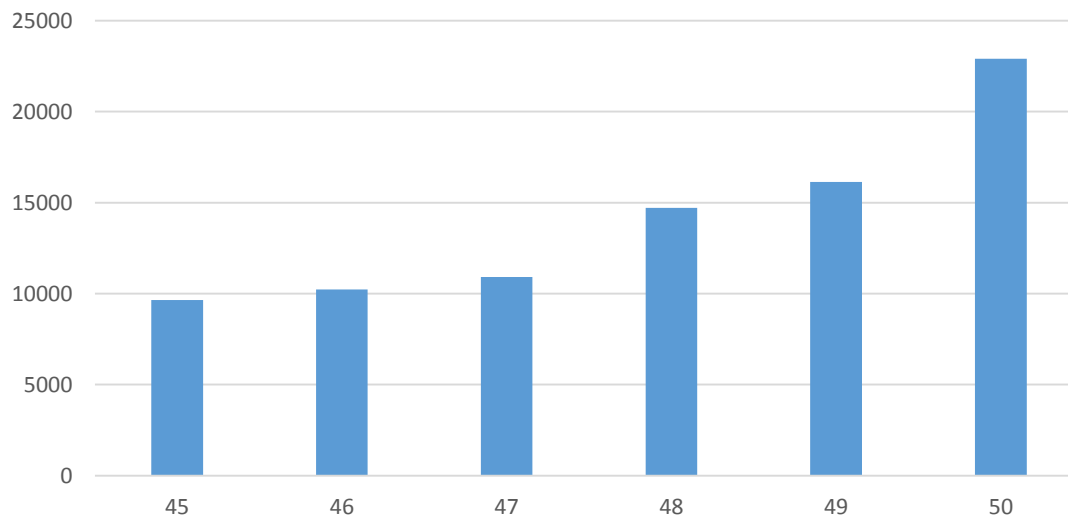
3. Fatalities management capacity:

- a) Mass fatality centre in the Metro with capacity for **240 bodies**
- b) Mass fatality **work group** co-ordinating capacity across province

Total Number of Public Sector Tests Done

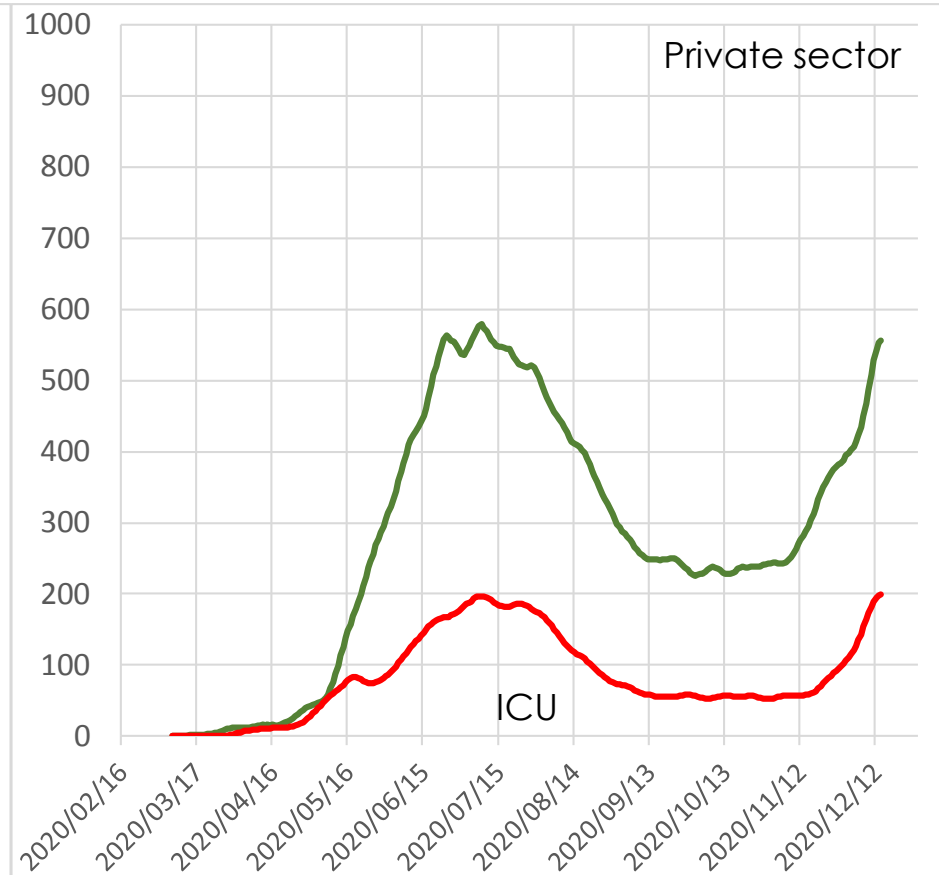
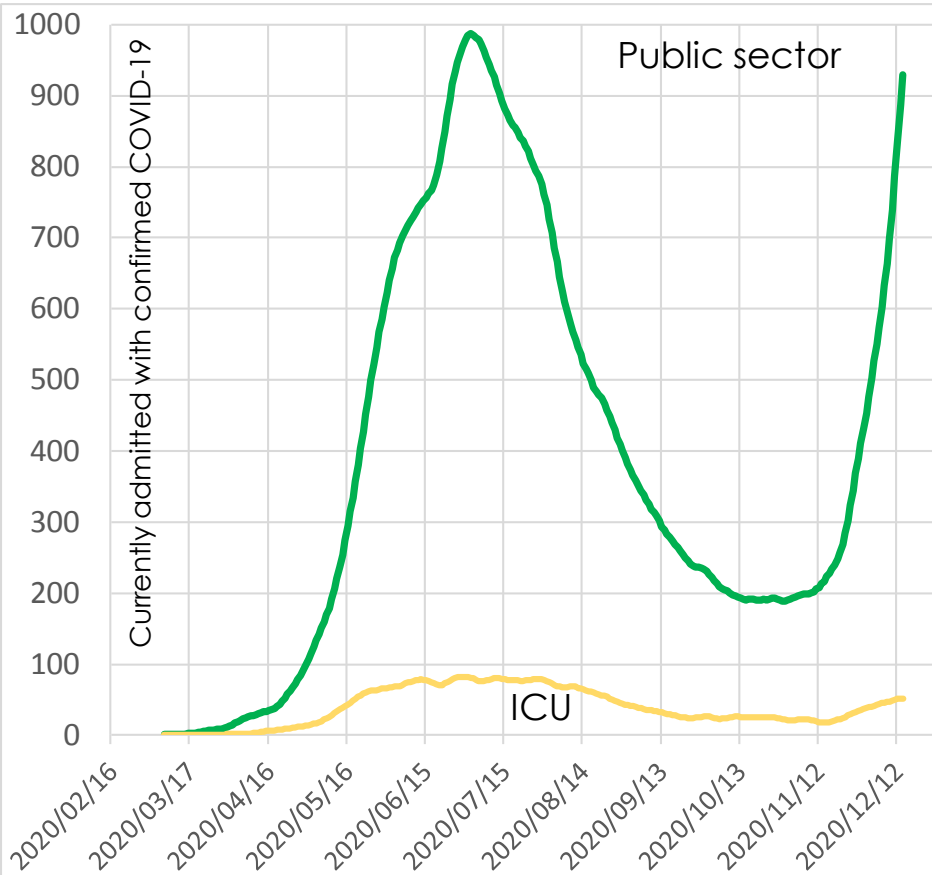
TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS DONE	
Week	Total
Week 8 9-15 November 2020	10,229
Week 9 16-22 November 2020	10,909
Week 10 23 - 29 November 2020	14,706
Week 11 30 November - 06 December	16,131
Week 12 7 -13 December 2020	22, 901
TOTAL	71,725

Number of Tests per week



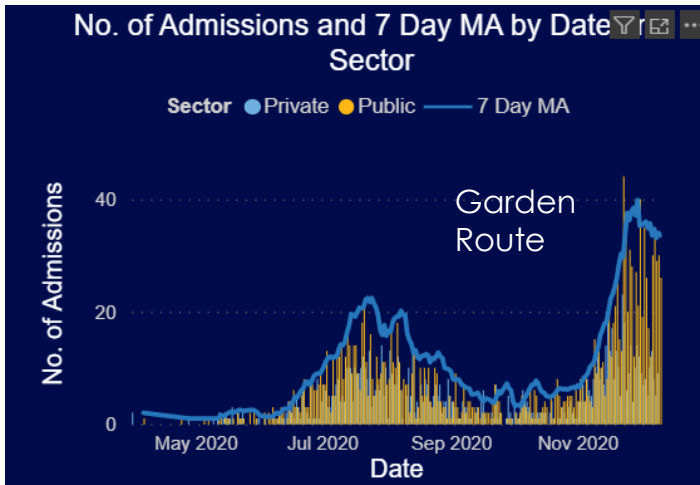
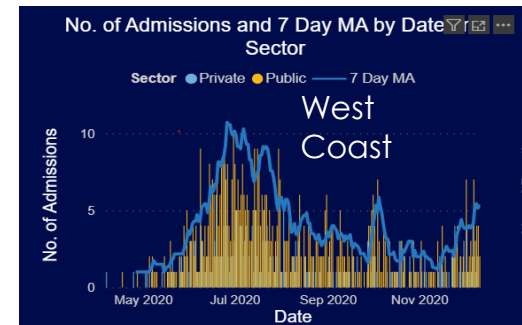
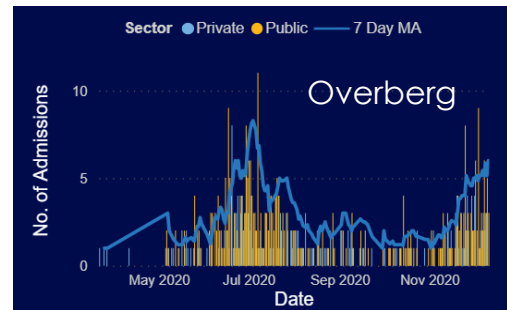
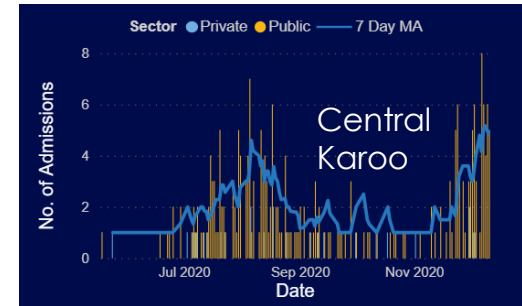
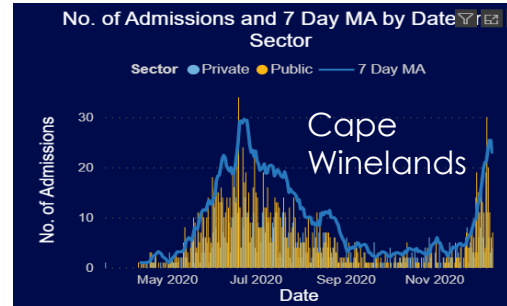
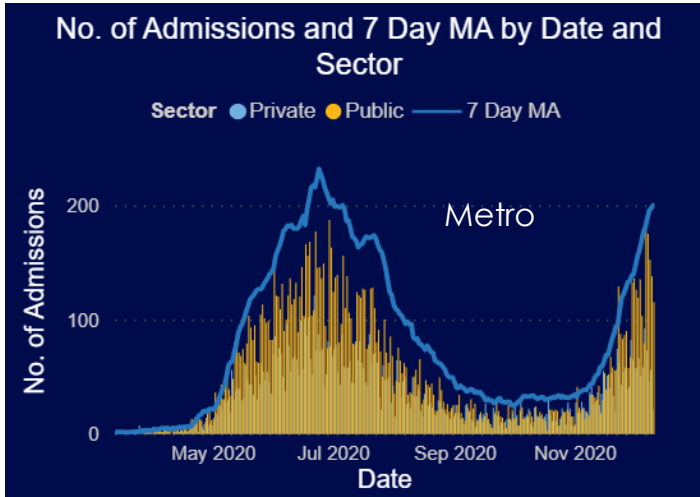
1. There has been a significant increase in testing in the public sector – the testing has virtually doubled over the past month.
2. NHLS successfully using the antigen testing in the Garden Route and Metro – but the turn-around times (TATs) are increasing for PCR testing.
3. The testing criteria have been updated based on available testing capacity.

Hospitalisation



Lines are not stacked. PUIs excluded

Hospital Admissions By Health District



Hospitalisations continue to increase across all districts, approaching levels seen at the previous peak.

The concern with hospitalisations is that unlike during the first wave, the health department now has to contend with a high trauma load.

Acute service platform – general comments

1. Currently **1733 Covid patients** in our acute hospitals (**1041** in **public** hospitals & **692** in **private** hospitals)
2. COVID **hospitalisations** have **increased sharply** while we are experiencing **trauma** and **psychiatric** pressures.
3. The metro hospitals are running at an average **occupancy rate of 78%** whilst **rural hospitals** are running at an average **occupancy rate of 91%**.
4. **COVID & PUI cases** make up **13%** of hospital admissions in the **metro** and **16% of hospital admissions** in the **rural areas** (both increasing daily).
5. The **Hospital of Hope** (Brackengate) had **253** patients (1437 cumulative cases), and **Sonstraal** had **14 COVID patients** (and 22 TB patients), as at yesterday.
6. The **oxygen utilisation** remains stable (**51.85%** of available capacity) and the mass fatality centre has admitted 516 bodies to date (**currently 21**).

METROPOLE ACUTE CARE AVAILABILITY & UTILISATION

	Operational Beds	Filled Beds	Available Beds	BUR %
TBH - Tygerberg Hospital	1,227	960	267	78%
GSH - Groote Schuur Hospital	825	580	245	70%
RXH - Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital	195	167	28	86%
NSH - New Somerset Hospital	358	234	124	65%
ERH - Eerste River Hospital	185	143	42	77%
FBH - False Bay Hospital	76	48	28	63%
HHH - Helderberg Hospital	196	151	45	77%
KHA - Khayelitsha Hospital	372	372	0	100%
KBH - Karl Bremer Hospital	360	284	76	79%
MPH - Mitchells Plain Hospital	426	353	73	83%
VHW - Victoria Hospital	181	147	34	81%
WFH - Wesfleur Hospital	58	37	21	64%
Totals	4,459	3,476	983	78%

Operational Beds = Beds that are Equipped and Staffed

Bed Utilisation Rate = % Operational Beds Occupied

OCCUPANCY IN METRO ACUTE CARE PLATFORM IS 78%

COVID BED OCCUPANCY AS % OF THE ACUTE SERVICE PLATFORM IN THE METROPOLE

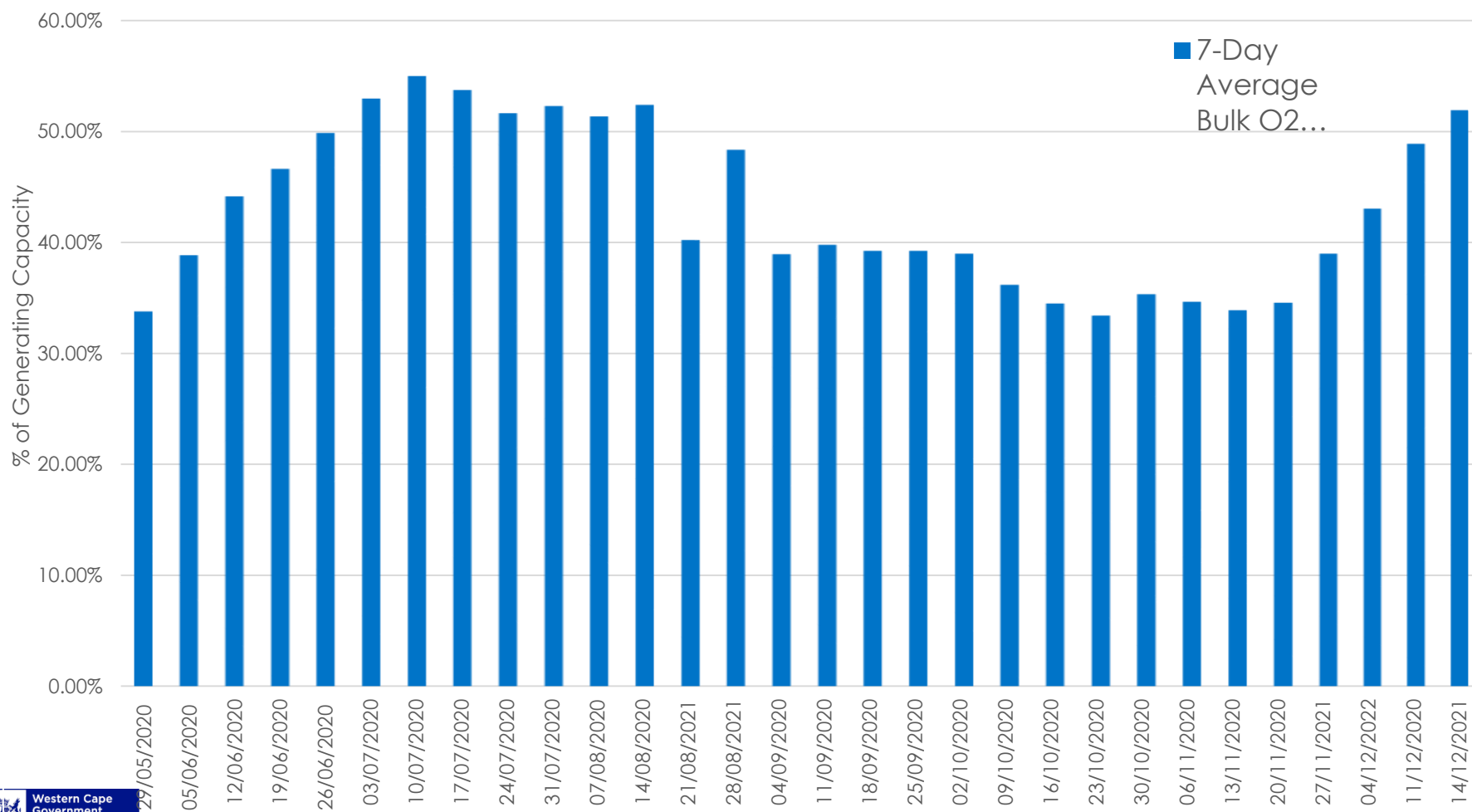
	Covid Ventilated Cases	HFNO	PUIs	Covid Non Ventilated Cases	Total Covid Cases
TBH - Tygerberg Hospital	15	11	18	38	82
GSH - Groote Schuur Hospital	12	18	1	79	110
RXH - Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital	2	0	14	8	24
NSH - New Somerset Hospital	1	0	21	24	46
ERH - Eerste River Hospital	0	0	10	3	13
FBH - False Bay Hospital	0	0	13	7	20
HHH - Helderberg Hospital	11	0	9	0	20
KHA - Khayelitsha Hospital	1	1	31	13	46
KBH - Karl Bremer Hospital	0	0	6	15	21
MPH - Mitchells Plain Hospital	0	6	2	43	51
VHW - Victoria Hospital	1	3	18	18	40
WFH - Wesfleur Hospital	0	0	12	0	12
R300 - Brackengate	1	8	0	243	252
SICF - Sonstraal Intermediate Care Facility	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	44	47	155	491	737

*Percentage COVID Patients of Total Hospital Admissions
 (Excl. Brackengate & SICF) **13%**

PERCENTAGE COVID PATIENTS OF THE TOTAL HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IS 13%

Provincial oxygen consumption at 51.85 % of total capacity

WCGH: Total Bulk O₂ Consumption
Expressed as % of Kuils River Plant Capacity

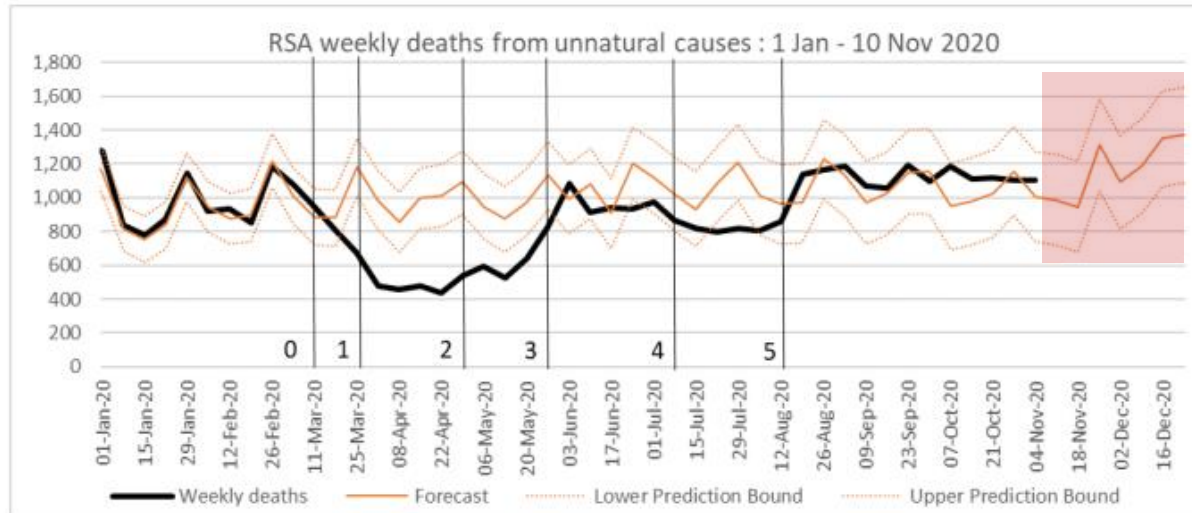


Scaling down non- COVID capacity

Scaling down non-COVID capacity – general comments

1. The single biggest challenge remains the **impact of alcohol-related trauma**, especially in the **emergency centres** and in **critical care**.
2. The **impact** of the **new alcohol restrictions** and the **targeted law enforcement efforts** will be **monitored over the next 2 weeks**.
3. The **psychiatric pressures** have also resulted in the need to bring on line additional capacity to cope with **increasing case numbers**.
4. The **de-escalation** of all other **non-COVID PHC and hospital care activities** are being managed actively across the health service platform.

SA MRC Report on unnatural deaths



Vertical time lines:

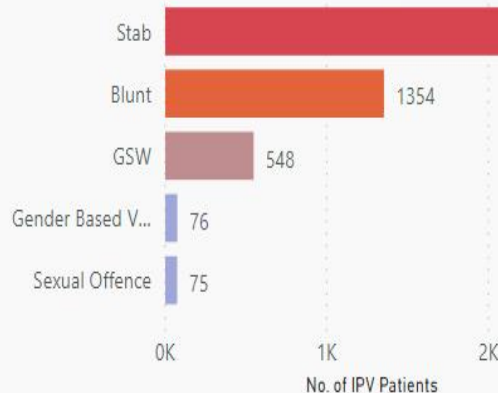
0. Week Disaster Management Act implemented
1. Week lockdown level 5 introduced
2. Week lockdown changed to level 4 with curfew
3. Week lockdown changed to level 3 including unbanning sale of alcohol
4. Week sale of alcohol re-banned and curfew re-introduced
5. Week lockdown changed to level 2, including unbanning of alcohol

Numbers have been scaled to the estimated actual number of death and for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations

- The MRC noted significant drops in unnatural deaths during periods of decreased alcohol availability during COVID-19
- The MRC also forecasts a significant increase in unnatural deaths over the December period

Impact of recent alcohol regulation changes on interpersonal violence (IPV) presentations to hospital (13 Jul - 26 Oct 2020)

No. of IPV Patients by Type



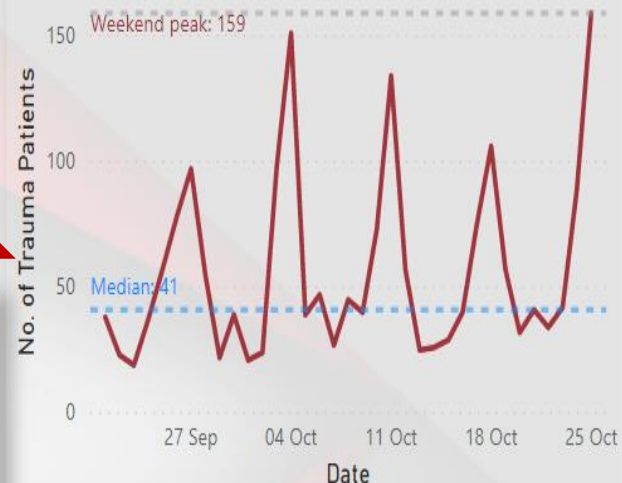
When the alcohol ban was lifted the average (median) no. of daily IPV cases presenting to hospital increased to 34 (55% increase) with weekend peaks at 104 (103% increase)

Sentinel Trauma Report

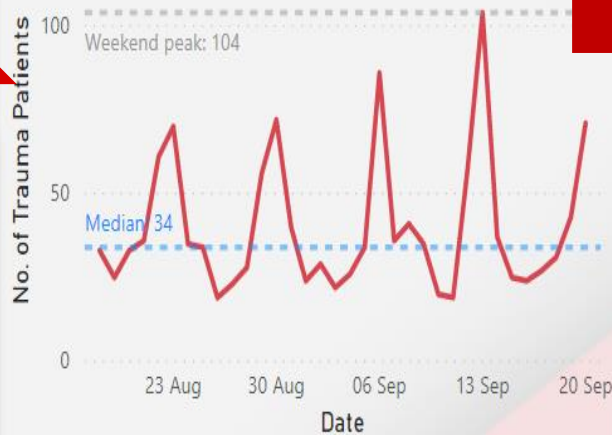
This report shows a sample of 4 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

When alcohol regulations were further relaxed (21 Sept) the average (median) no. of daily IPV cases presenting to hospital increased to 41 (additional 21% increase) with weekend peaks at 159 (additional 53% increase)

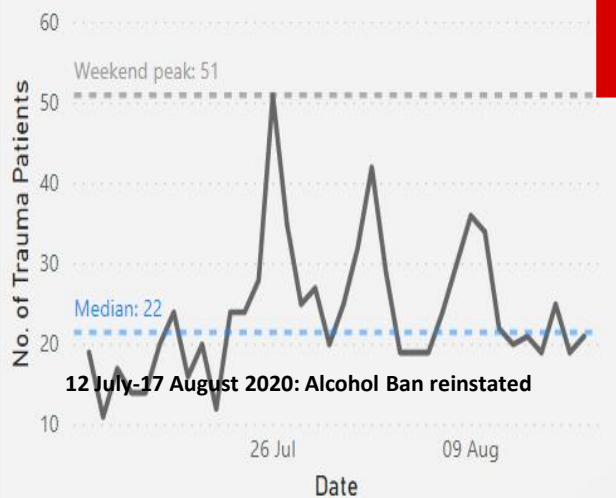
Further relaxation of alcohol regulations



Second Alcohol Ban Lift



Alcohol Ban Reinstated



18 August - 20 September 2020:

Alcohol Ban lifted with regulations in retail alcohol from Mon-Thursday and night time curfew at 10am

21 September 2020 – 26 October 2020:

Alcohol regulations further relaxed with night time curfew extended to 12am and retail alcohol sales allowed on Friday

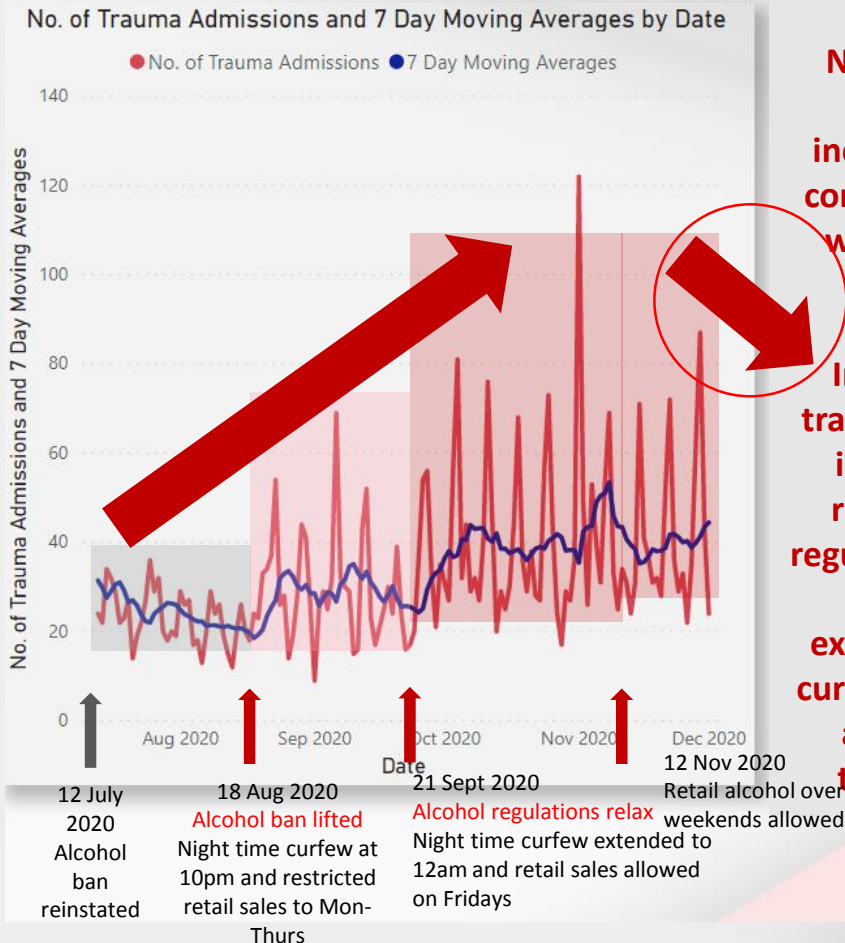
Over the period from 13 July to 26 October 2020 we have seen the average (median) number of daily IPV cases presenting to hospital increase from 22 to 41 and weekend peaks from 51 to 159. This equates to an 86% increase in average daily IPV cases to hospital and a 212% increase in weekend IPV peaks from the baseline of the recent alcohol ban at the hospitals sampled.

The colliding epidemics of trauma and COVID-19 in terms of hospital admissions

Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

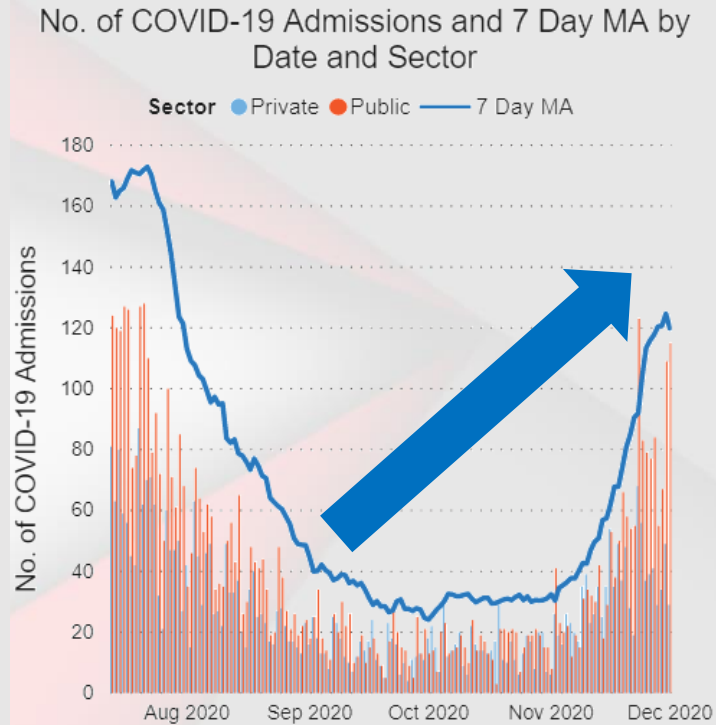
Trauma Admissions (13 July-01 Dec 2020):



Over the month of November, COVID-19 admissions have increased by 409% and continues to increase as we continue with the resurgence.

In the same context, trauma admissions have increased with each relaxation of alcohol regulation. The relaxation of retail sales and extension of night time curfew, in particular, saw a 36.2% increase in trauma admissions.

COVID-19 Admissions (13 July-01 Dec 2020):



Source: HECTIS and WC PHDC

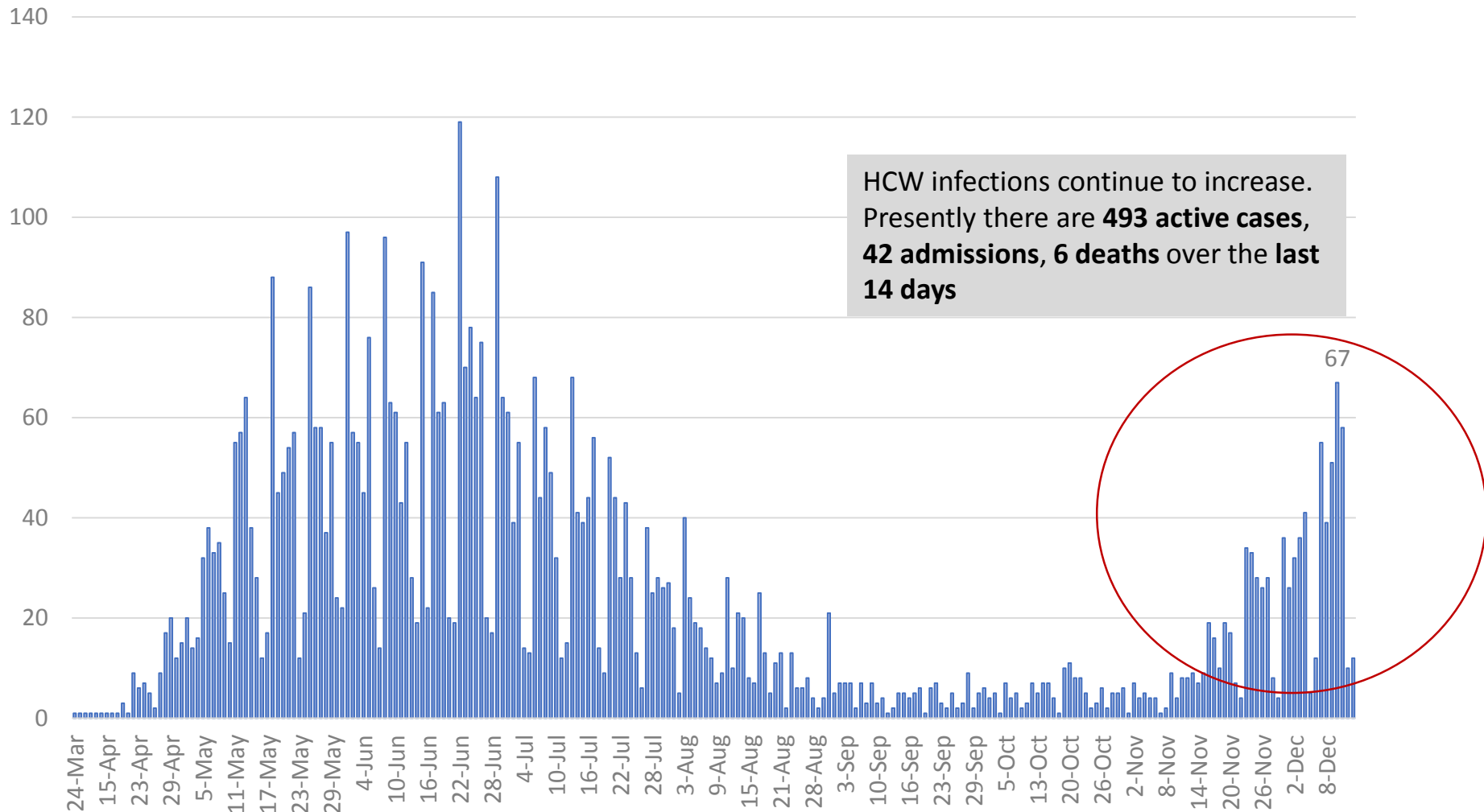
Safe-guarding well-being of health care workers

Safe-guarding health care workers – general comments

1. The single biggest challenge is the **increasing COVID infection rate** amongst health care workers, and the impact on **staff member isolation and quarantine**.
2. The **availability** of additional staff members for **contract work** and **via agencies** is also a significant challenge.
3. The number of people willing to **volunteer their services** has also **decreased significantly**.
4. There is **sufficient PPEs across all the health facilities**, and in central storage, with additional orders being placed in recent weeks.
5. The system to **support frontline staff** in terms of **mental well-being** is being **scaled-up**.

WCG: Health, Health Worker COVID-19 Infections

WCG-H Healthcare Workers with COVID-19



COVID-19 infections in HCW- 14 November 2020- 14 December 2020

Healthcare Worker Resurgence Monitor

Health Impact Assessment

WC Department of Health

Last Updated:

Monday, 14 December 2020

CORONAVIRUS

Western Cape Provincial COVID Dashboard

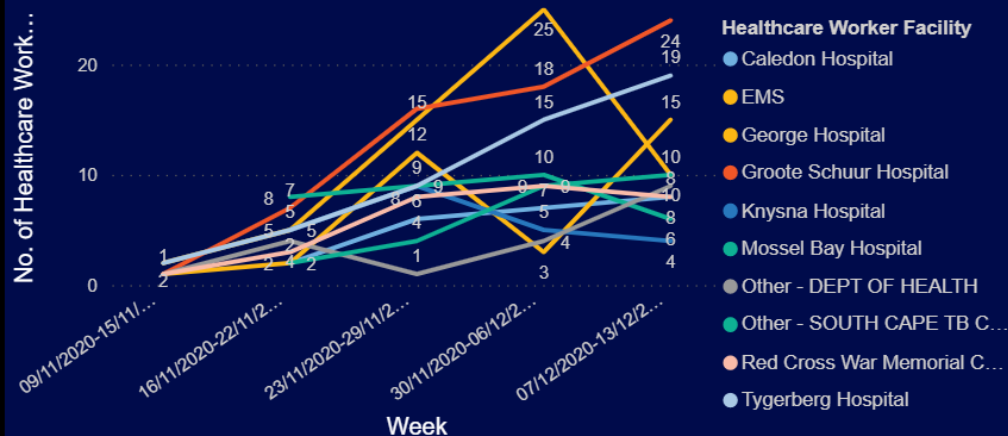
11/14/2020

12/14/2020

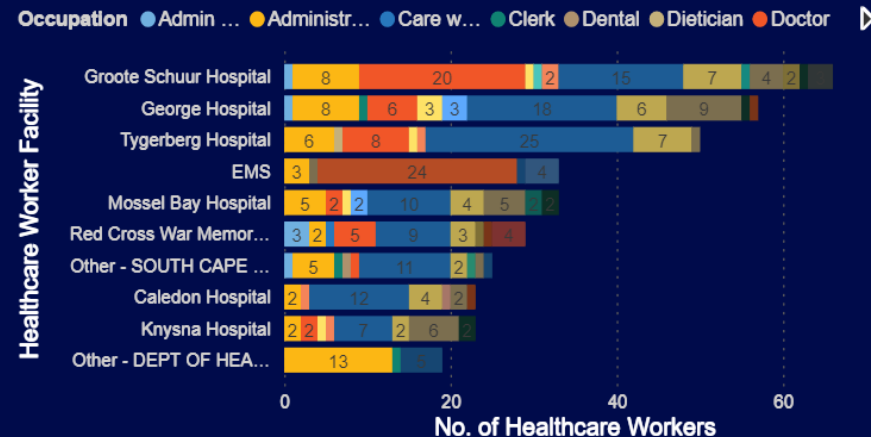
Top 20 Facilities with COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Cases by Week

Healthcare Worker Facility	09/11/2020-15/11/2020	16/11/2020-22/11/2020	23/11/2020-29/11/2020	30/11/2020-06/12/2020	07/12/2020-13/12/2020	Total
Groote Schuur Hospital	1	7	16	18	24	66
George Hospital	2	5	15	25	10	57
Tygerberg Hospital	2	5	9	15	19	50
EMS	1	2	12	3	15	33
Mossel Bay Hospital		8	9	10	6	33
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital	1	3	8	9	8	29
Other - SOUTH CAPE TB CENTRE		2	4	9	10	25
Caledon Hospital		2	6	7	8	23
Knysna Hospital		5	9	5	4	23
Other - DEPT OF HEALTH	1	4	1	4	9	19
New Somerset Hospital			8	6	3	17
Total	11	60	111	137	182	501

Top 10 Facilities with COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Cases by Week



Top 20 Facilities with COVID-19 HCW Cases by Occupation



We continue to see an increase in HCW infections week on week.

Groote Schuur Hospital is now the hospital with the most infections in the last calendar month, reflecting the increase of cases in the Metro, and in the Southern sub-district in particular.

Conclusions

Concluding remarks

1. The **increase in active cases** in **all districts** , represents an **established 2nd wave** in the Western Cape.
2. Our **local teams** are on **high alert for local surveillance and response** to localised clusters that can be targeted for maximum impact, especially the vulnerable.
3. The biggest concern is the **non-adherence to protective behaviours** – hence the big drive for **targeted law enforcement and behaviour change** interventions.
4. The **hospitalisation** and **mortality data** showed a **rapid increase** over the past 2 weeks.
5. We have **activated contingency plans** per geographic area to **scale up hospital COVID capacity** as required, but **alcohol-related trauma is a major challenge**.
6. Our key concern is that our **health care workers face significant strain** over the coming weeks. We need to **safe-guard them and their families**.
7. It is essential to ensure a **strong focus on behaviour change to ensure containment** for the **next 3-6 months**, while clarity around the **availability of a vaccine** emerges.

Thank you