



**Western Cape
Government**

Health

DIGITAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Health Update

Dr K Cloete

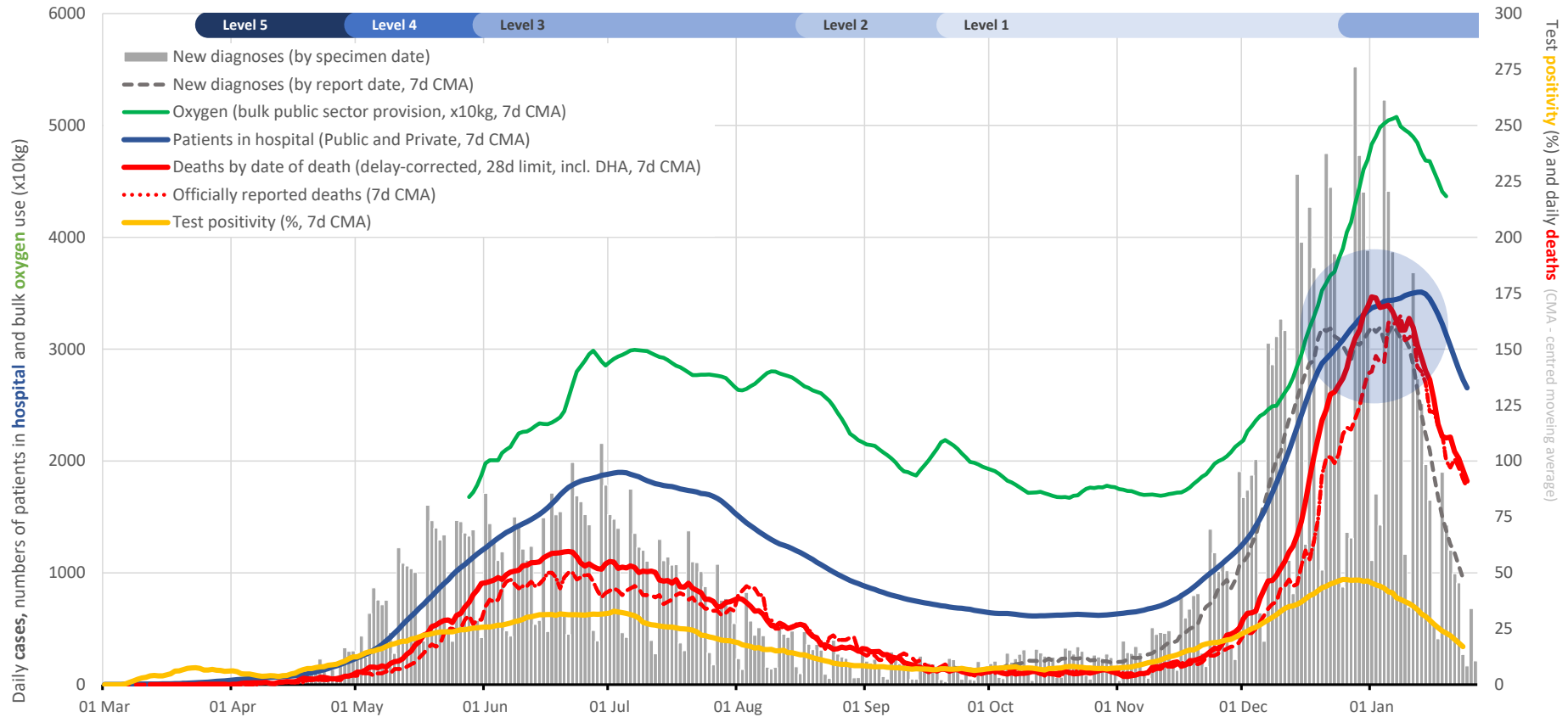
27 January 2021

Overview

1. Surveillance & Response Update
2. Health platform COVID response
3. Safe-guarding well-being of health care workers
4. Vaccine strategy
5. Conclusions

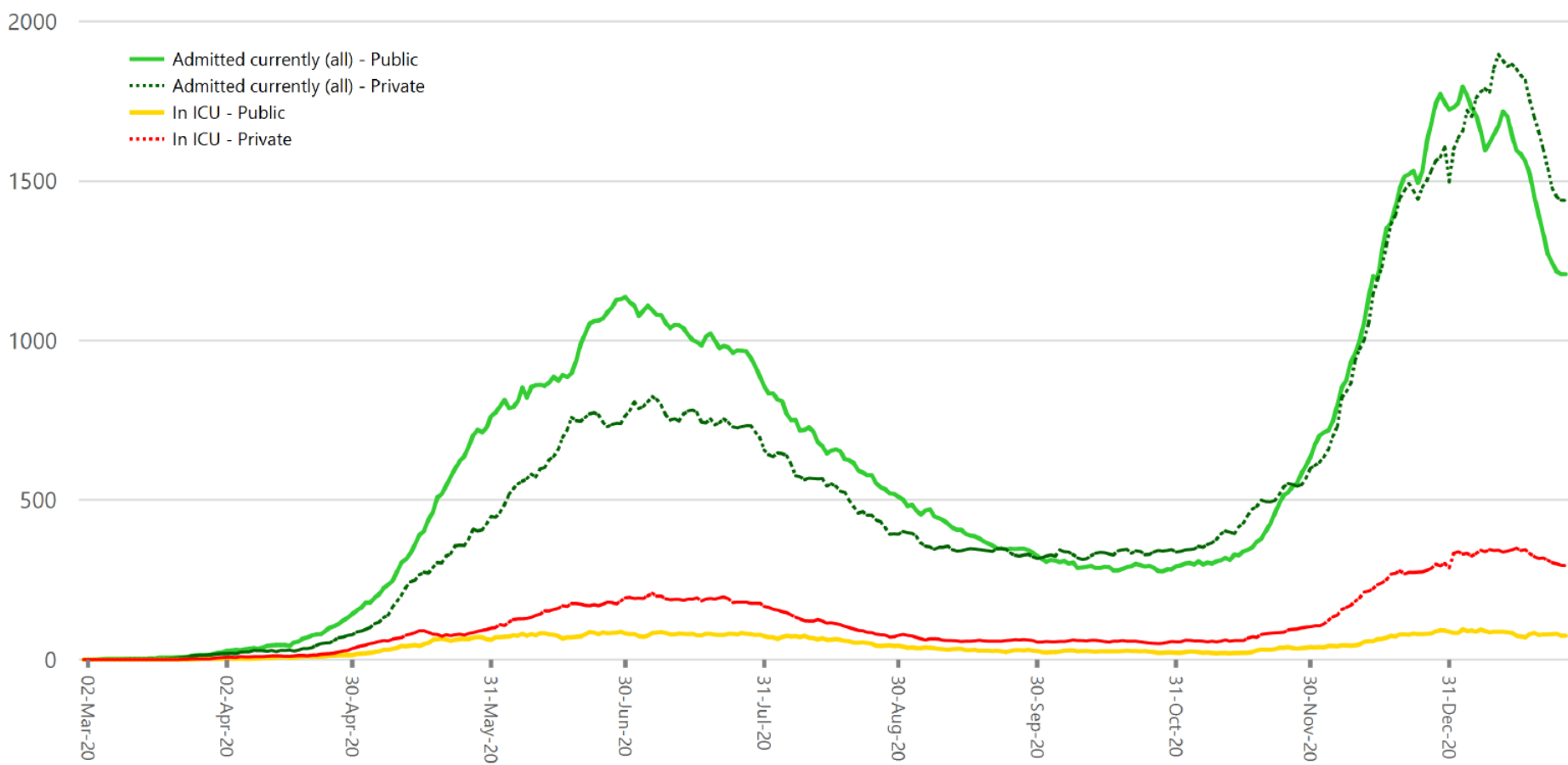
Surveillance & Response Update

Integrated testing, case, hospitalisation and mortality trends



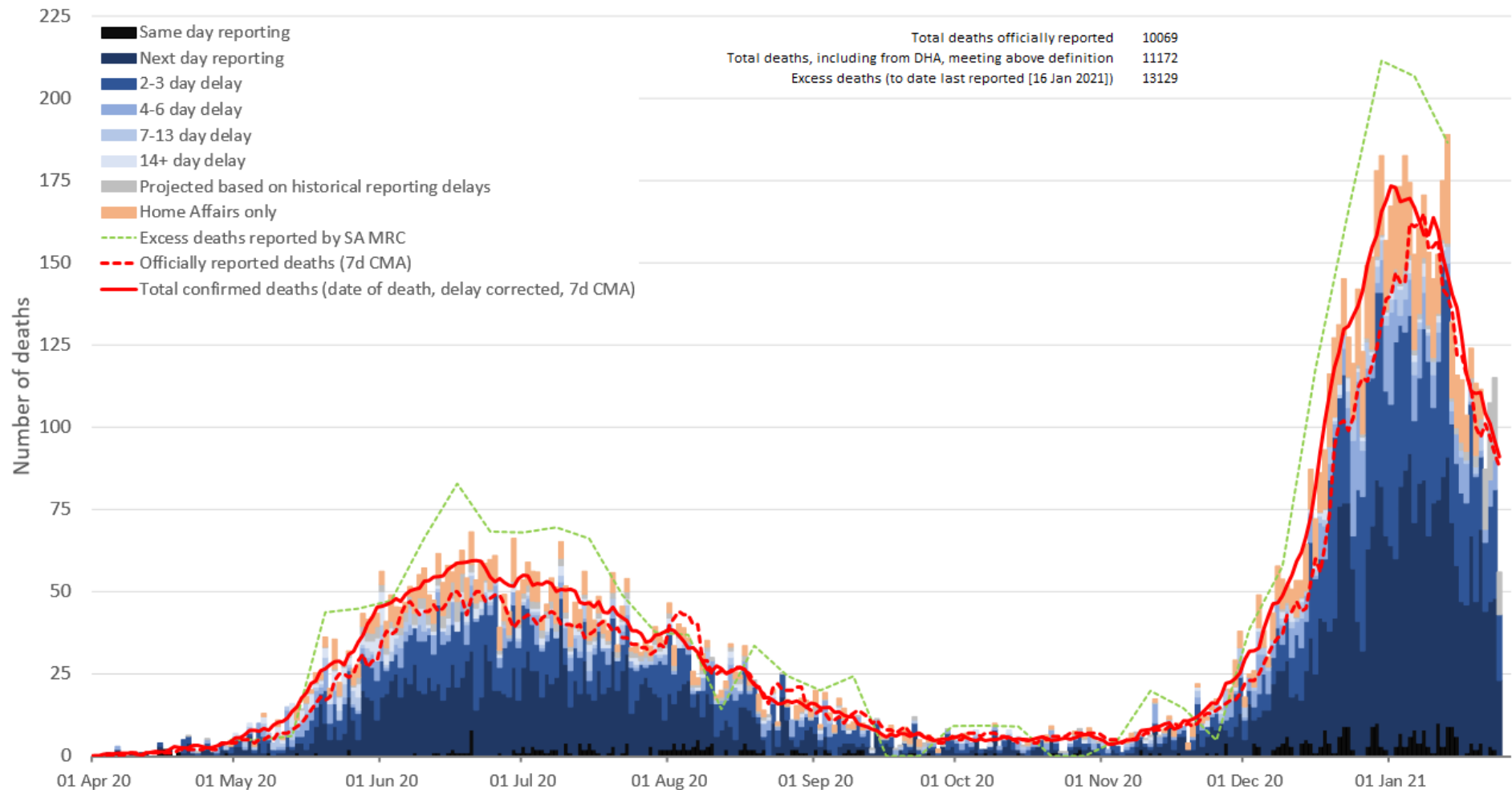
Hospitalisation trends of patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2

(including specialised hospitals, excluding PUIs)



Mortality by date of death

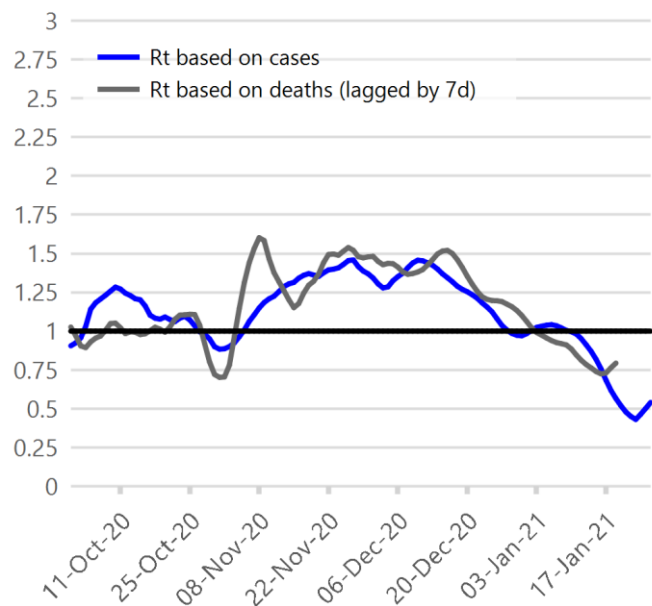
Mortality in patients with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2, by delay to reporting*
(within 28 days of diagnosis or 14 days of discharge, by date of death, excluding non-natural deaths on population register)



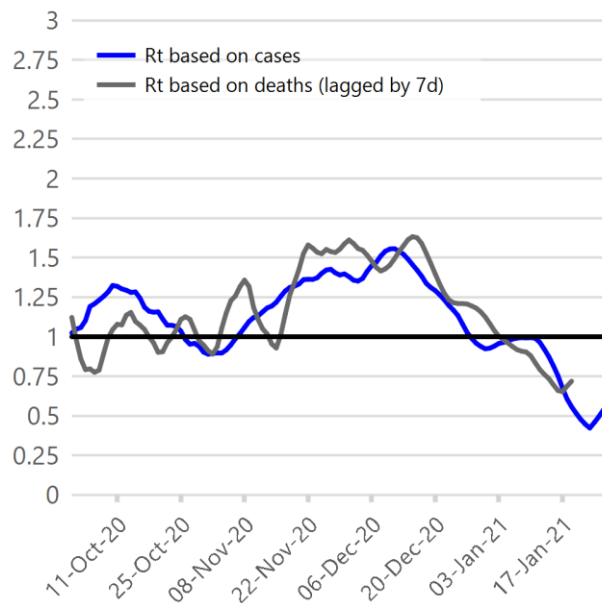
* Excludes patients who die following clinical diagnoses of COVID-19 in spite of absent or false negative SARS-CoV-2 test results, and those without recorded ID numbers dying at home or in ambulatory or emergency room care
CMA - centred moving average

Current reproduction number

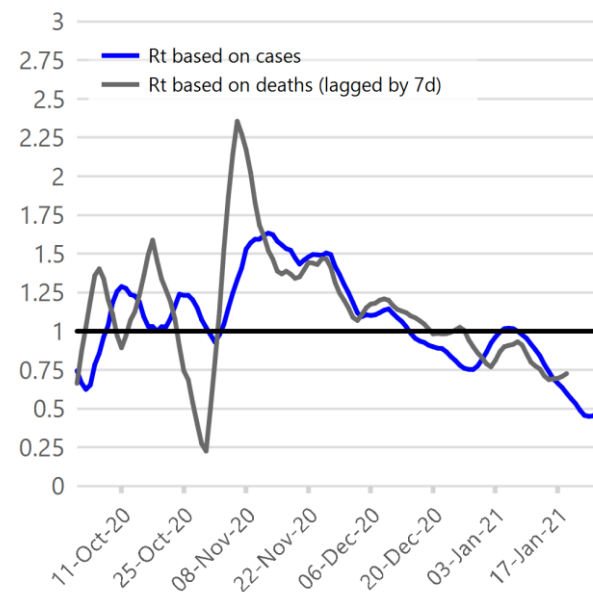
Province



Metro



Garden route



Provincial Resurgence Overview



Health Impact Assessment
WC Department of Health
Last Updated:
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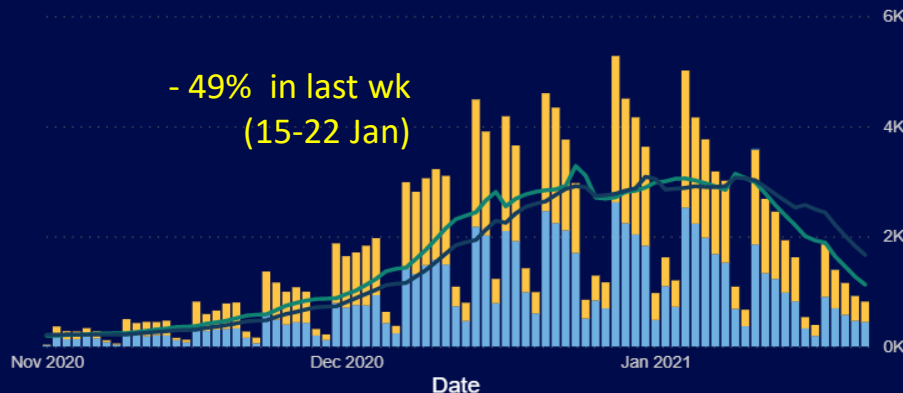


Select District, Subdistrict:

- ✓ 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

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



Date of Diagnosis

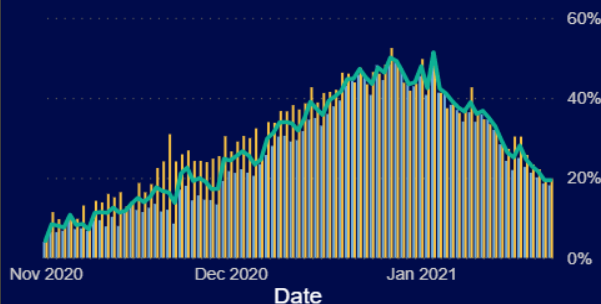
11/1/2020 1/22/2021

Date of Death

11/1/2020 1/19/2021

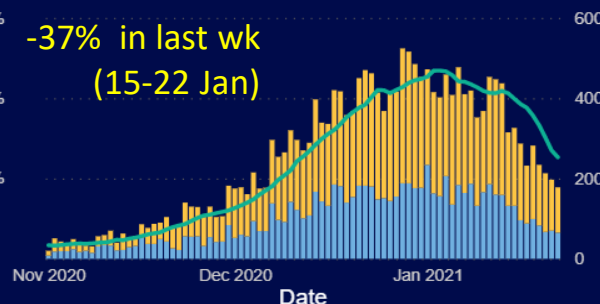
Proportion Positive and Overall Positivity by Date and Sector

Sector ● Private/Other ● Public — Overall Positivity



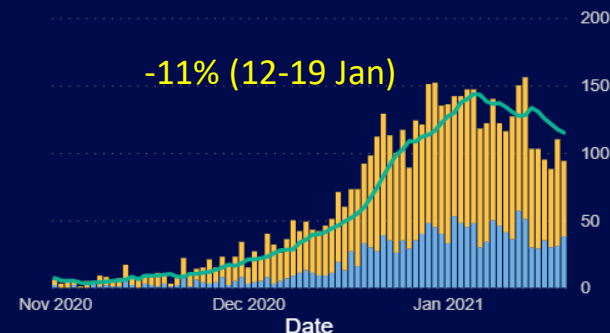
No. of Admissions and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector

Sector ● Private ● Public — 7 Day MA



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

Sector ● Private/Other ● Public — 7 Day MA

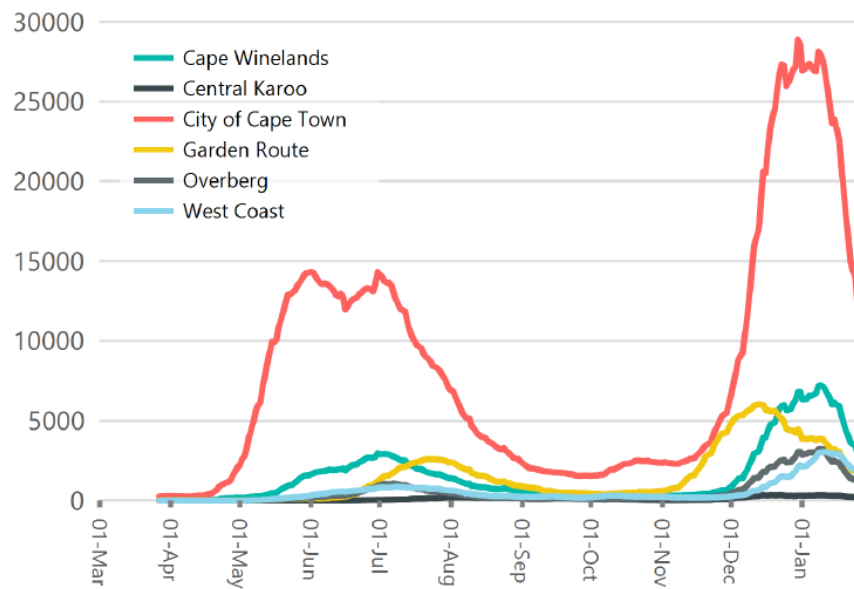


Provincial Overview

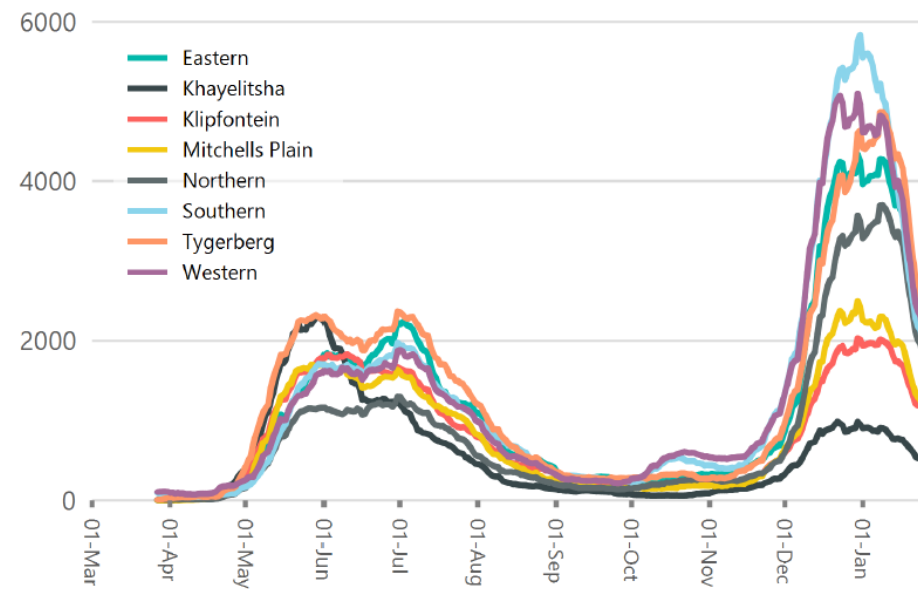
- For a second week in a row, there is a marked decrease in COVID-19 cases across the province-49%. This is accompanied by a 37% drop in admissions and an 11% drop in deaths.
- These data confirm that we have passed the peak of our second wave and are on a downward trajectory on all measures.
- As further confirmation, our proportion positive has dropped below 20% from a high of over 50%.
- Current case numbers are similar to what we experienced around 13 December 2020.

Active cases

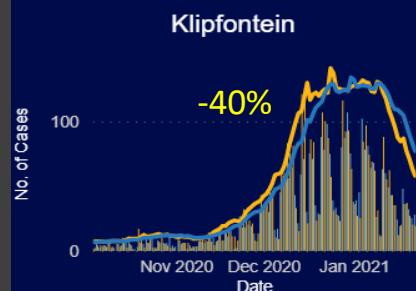
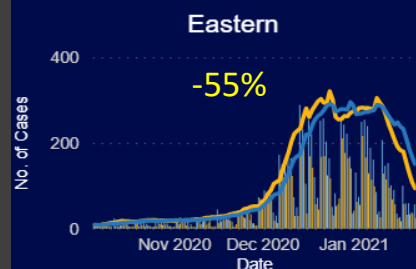
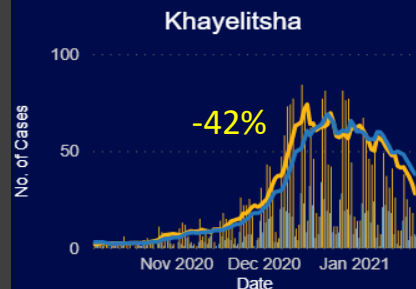
Districts



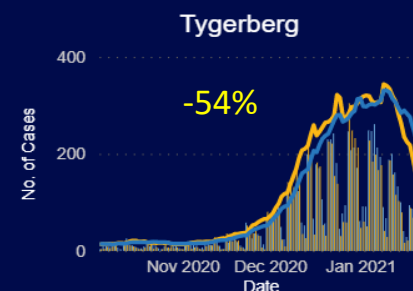
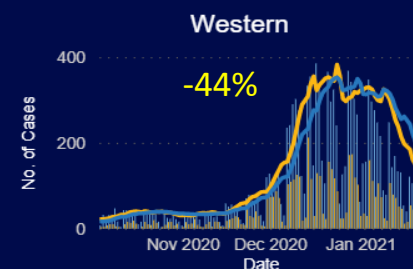
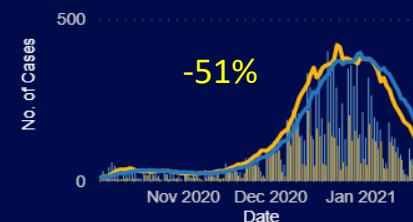
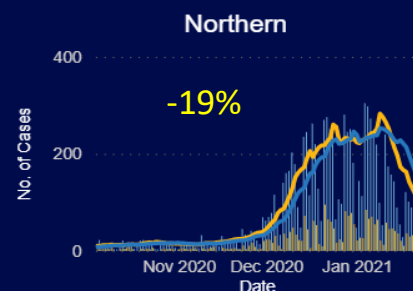
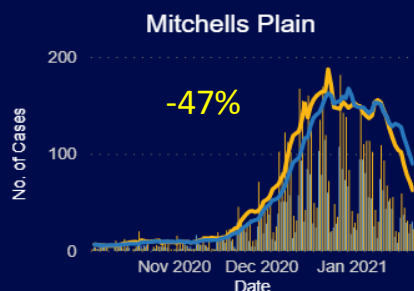
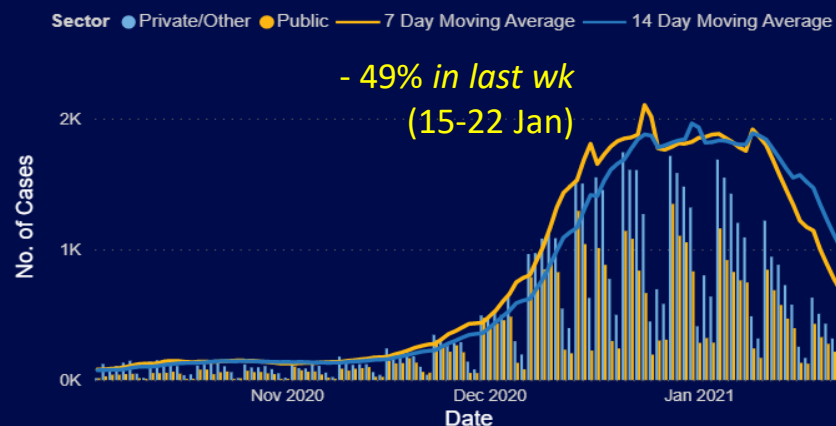
Cape Town subdistricts



Metro Resurgence Overview



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



Metro Overview

- Cases in the Metro continue to drop, this week by 49%. This pattern is seen in all sub-districts.
- The Southern sub-district has seen a remarkable 51% decline in cases. Case numbers resemble those seen around 1 December 2020.
- The Metro has passed the peak of the second wave and is on a downward trajectory.



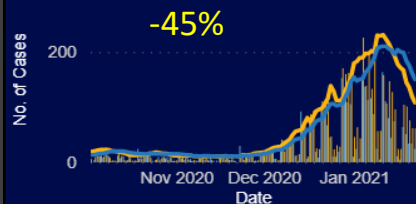
10/3/2020

1/22/2021

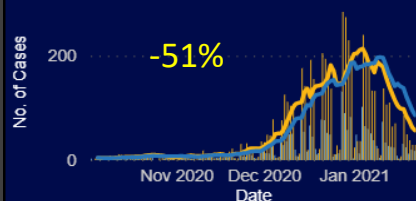
Rural Resurgence Overview

Health Impact Assessment
WC Department of Health
Last Updated:
Tuesday, 26 January 2021

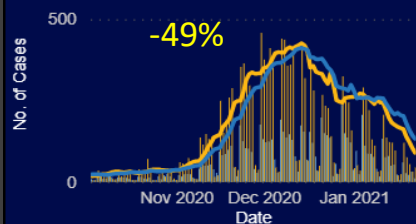
West Coast



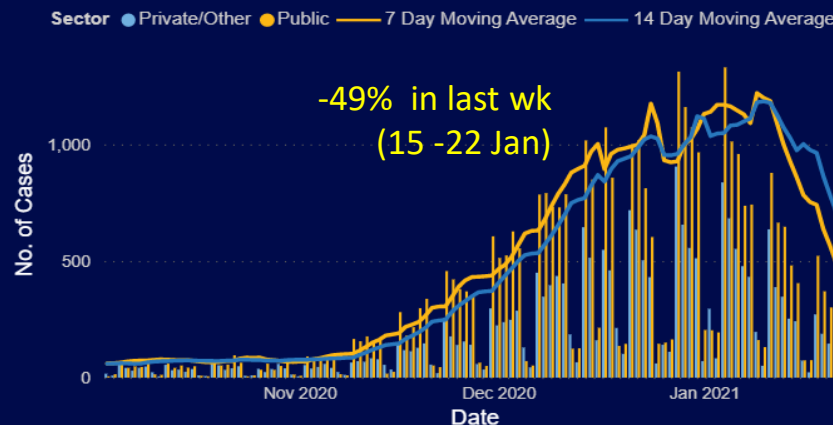
Overberg



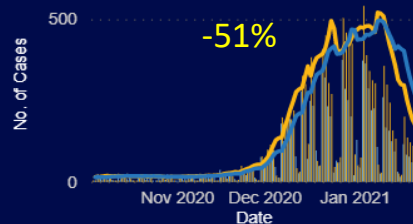
Garden Route



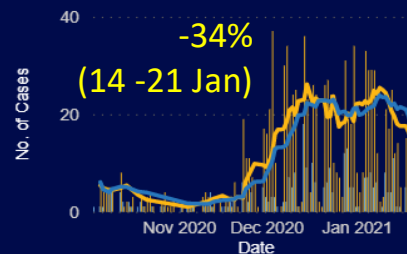
Rural Overview: No. of Cases with 7 and 14 Day MA by Date and by sector



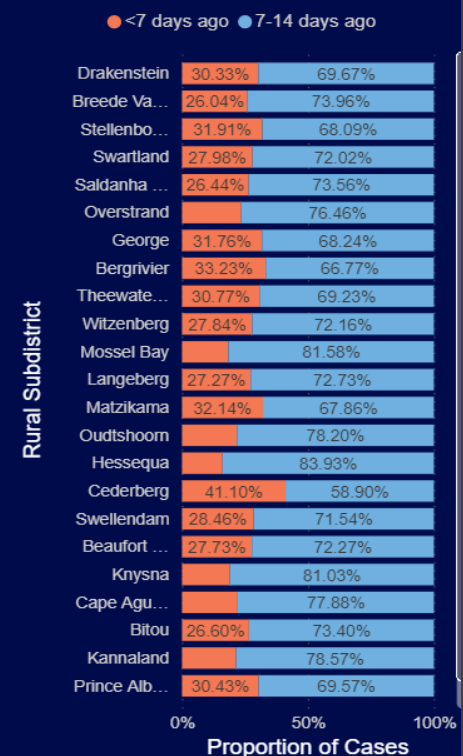
Cape Winelands



Central Karoo



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



Rural Overview

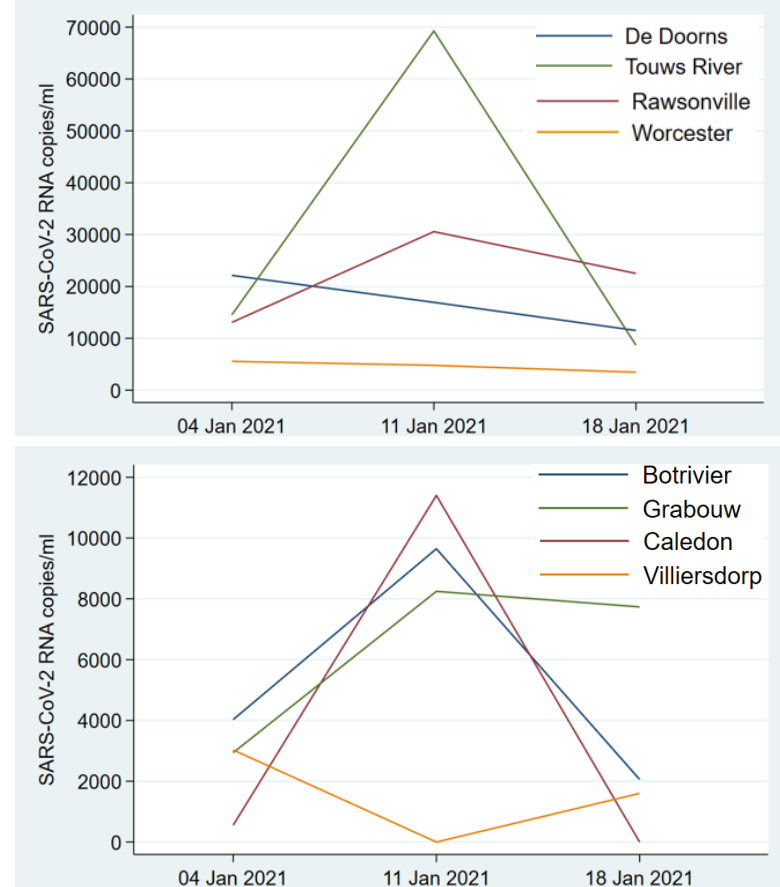
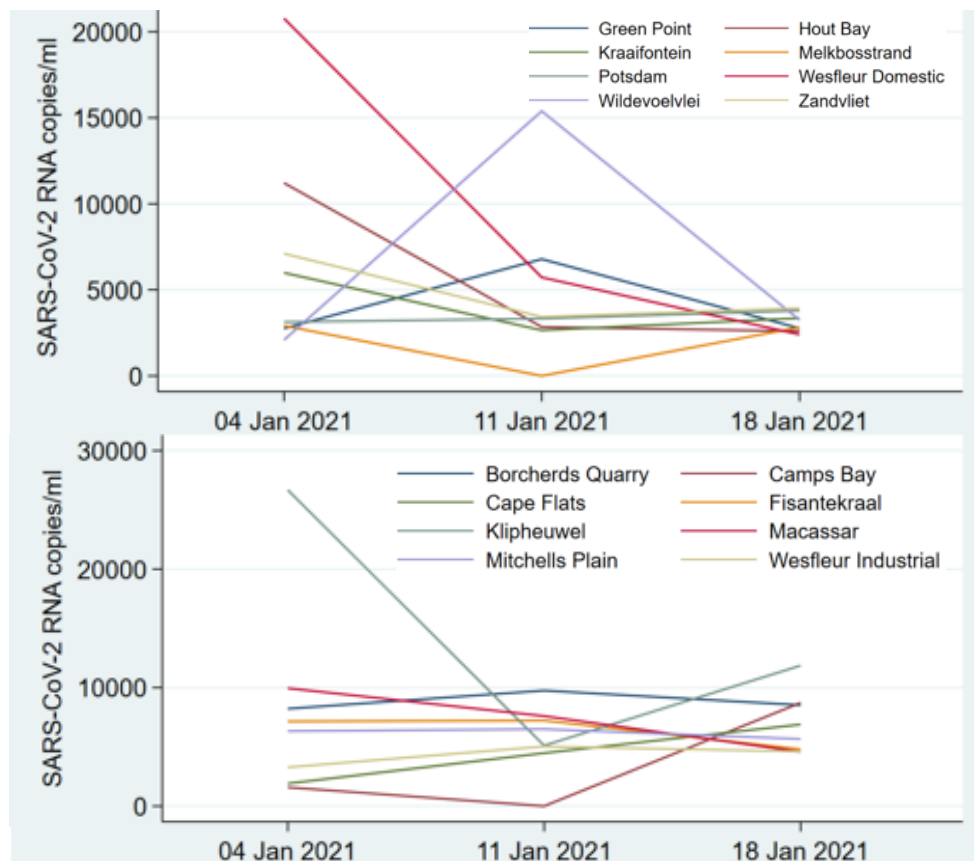
- The downward trajectory continues in Rural, with a 49% drop in case this week.
- This is present in all subdistricts including the West Coast which sees a 45% drop in cases.
- Rural has also passed the peak of the second wave and is on a downward trajectory.

Triangulating with wastewater

SAMRC COVID- 19 AND WASTEWATER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

WEEK 3
2021

City of Cape Town, Breede Valley AND Overberg



Breede Valley:

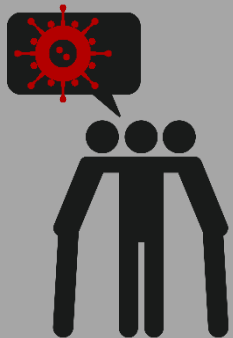
Decrease across all areas but levels in Rawsonville are high (>22508 copies/ml)

Theewaterskloof:

Decrease in all areas except Villiersdorp where levels are nonetheless relatively low

26 January
2021

Surveillance Huddle Report



Surveillance Huddle Notes – Tuesday 26 January 2021

Metro

KMPSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers going down, positivity rate going down significantly• Admissions to Hospital of Hope maybe plateaued out, not increasing
NTSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decline in cases significant• Business compliance still an issue, referring them onto Environmental Health and Dept of Labour• Retirement villages still a problem, residents feel safe within the village so not wearing masks
SWSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cases decreasing, test positivity <10% at most facilities• Still supporting OAH's with mini-outbreaks, pink drive assisting with CST as needed

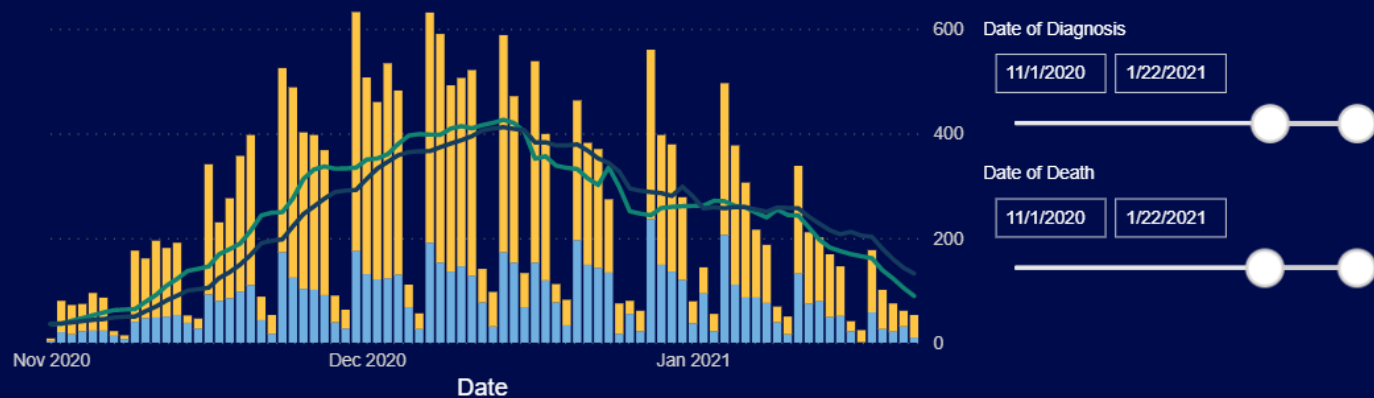
Rural

Central Karoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in cases• Only 1 death in last 7 days, but was a HCW who died• Dept of Labour planning to visit their facilities next week
Garden Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers going down• Uniondale/Haarlem – still a few cases there, situation being monitored
Overberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case numbers decreasing• Although farm areas with contract workers still a problem

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

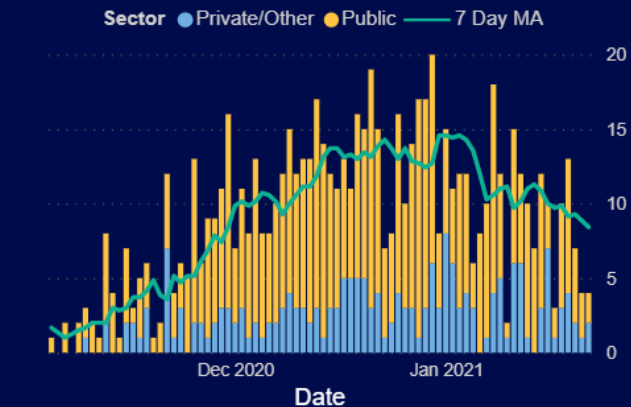
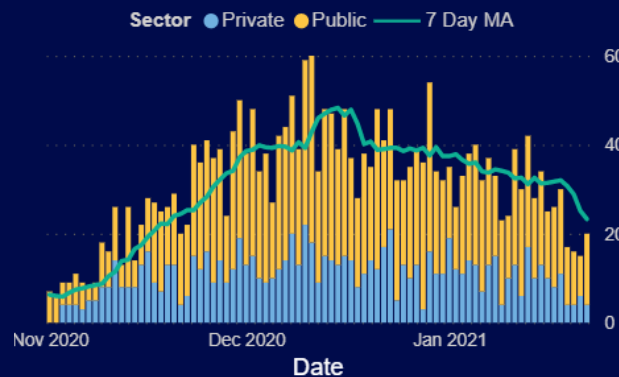
Sector ● Private/Other ● Public ● Unknown — 7 Day Moving Average — 14 Day Moving Average



Proportion Positive and Overall Positivity by Date

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

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



Garden Route

After a short period where cases plateaued, the Garden Route is once again on a downward trajectory, with a 49% drop in the last week.

The case numbers in the Garden Route resembles those seen around 11 November 2021.

The health platform COVID response

The health platform COVID response – general overview

1. PHC capacity:

- a) The PHC facilities have offered **COVID testing**, and provided **triage** for **confirmed cases**.
- b) There has been active **de-escalation** of **non-COVID PHC services**.

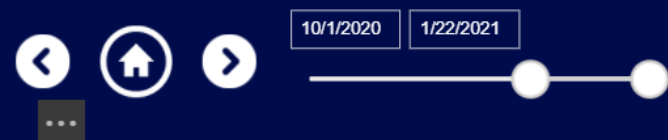
2. Hospital capacity:

- a) **7 705 total acute operational** public sector beds (excluding specialised beds at psych hospitals, TB hospitals, Red Cross hospitals, Mowbray Maternity hospital), for COVID patients.
- b) **626 inter-mediate care beds** in Metro provisioned: **336 Brackengate Hospital of Hope**, **90 at Lentegour**, **200 at MPH Hospital of Hope** - beds commissioned in an incremental fashion.
- c) We also have **64 intermediate care beds at Sonstraal Hospital**, in Paarl.
- d) We have **opened only 20 beds** of the potential additional **136 intermediate care beds**.

3. Fatalities management capacity:

- a) Mass fatality centre in the Metro has capacity for **240 bodies** [COCT had initially retained an additional 96 spaces but these were not needed]; currently **35 decedents (cumulative total of 1229 bodies)** admitted.
- b) Mass fatality **work group has successfully** co-ordinated capacity across the province.

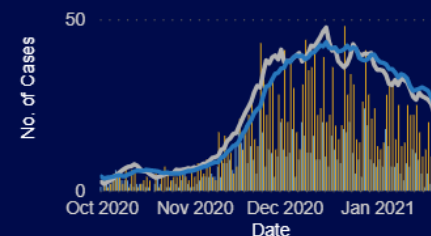
Hospital Admissions By Health District (public and private)



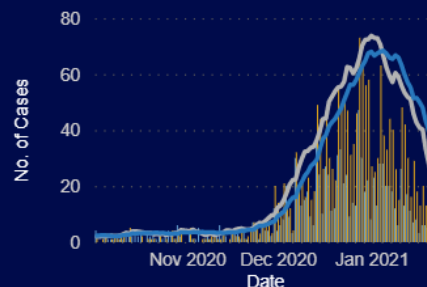
Hospitalizations by District

Health Impact Assessment
WC Department of Health
Last Updated:
Tuesday, 26 January 2021

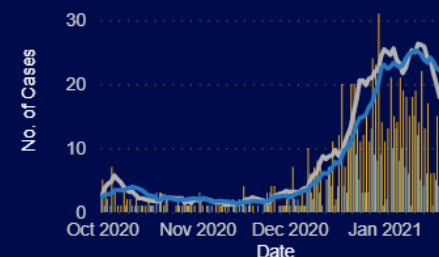
Garden Route



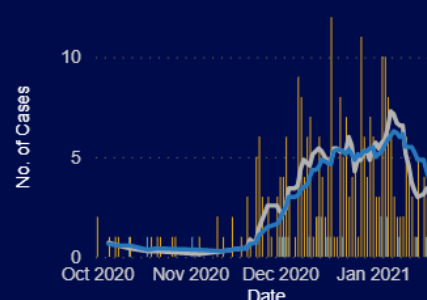
Cape Winelands



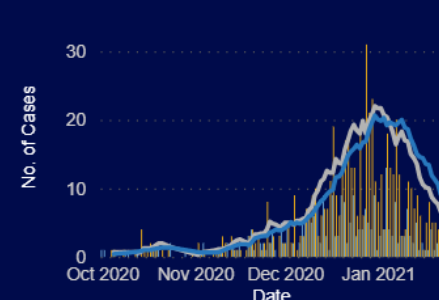
West Coast



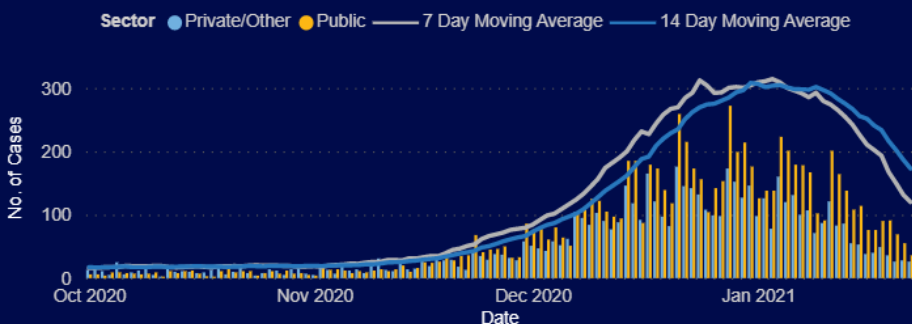
Central Karoo



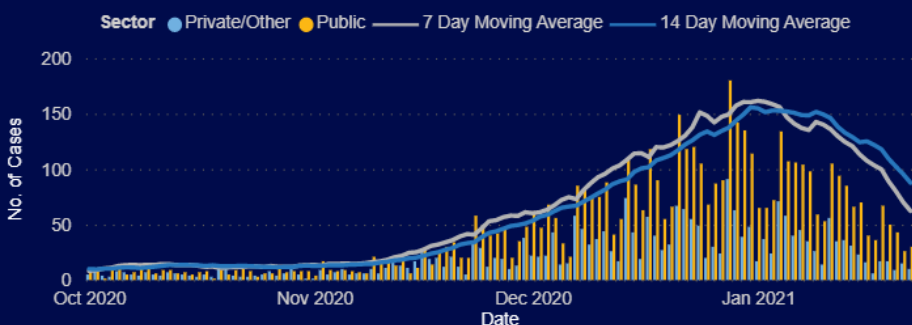
Overberg



City of Cape Town: Admissions with 7 and 14 Day MA by Date and sector



Rural: Admissions with 7 and 14 Day MA by Date and sector



Hospital admissions have passed the peak and are declining in all districts.

Acute service platform – general comments

1. Currently **2750 COVID patients** in our acute hospitals (**1656** in **public** hospitals & **1094** in **private** hospitals). This **excludes PUIs** and **cases in specialised hospital** settings.
2. COVID **hospitalisations** have continued **to decline** whilst we are experiencing **psychiatric** pressures. **Trauma** has remained **significantly lower** than usual.
3. The **Metro hospitals** are running at an average **occupancy rate** of **86%**; **George** drainage area hospitals at **61%**; **Paarl** drainage area hospitals at **74%** & **Worcester** drainage area hospitals at **65%**.
4. Occupancies in the COVID general beds however reflect the **COVID pressures** with **Metro** hospitals at **57%**; **George** drainage area hospitals at **34%**; **Paarl** drainage area hospitals at **63%**; **Worcester** drainage area hospitals at **42%**
5. **COVID & PUI cases** currently make up **23%** of all available acute general hospital capacity in both Metro and Rural Regional Hospital drainage areas.
6. **COVID inter-mediate care** - the **Hospital of Hope** (Brackengate) currently has **182** patients (3 074 cumulative patients), **Freesia & Ward 99** has **37** patients, **Mitchell Plain hospital of hope** has **81** patients and **Sonstraal** currently has **56** patients.

Acute Care Availability & Utilisation per Drainage Area



WCDOH: Daily Operational Bed Status Dashboard as at 25/01/2021

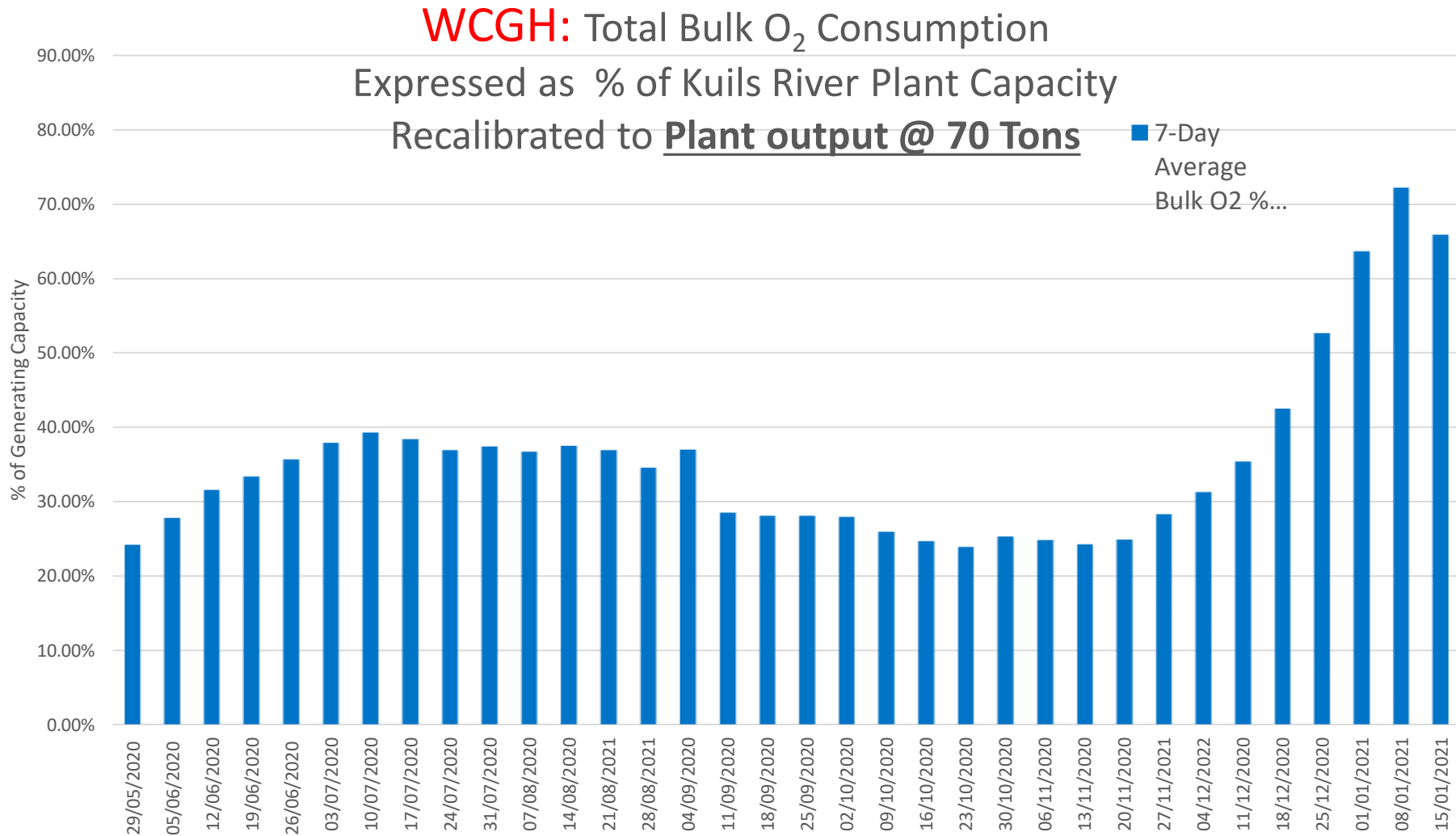
Drainage Area	Operational Beds	Filled Beds	BUR %	COVID BUR %	% Covid patients	BUR % for Designated Covid Beds(General Wards)	BUR % for Designated Covid Beds(Critical Care)
Cape Town /Metro	5 041	4 358	86%	57%	21%	56%	91%
George	913	556	61%	34%	19%	32%	58%
Paarl	968	714	74%	63%	29%	60%	150%
Worcester	783	512	65%	42%	30%	41%	43%
SubTotal WCDOH	7 705	6 140	80%	53%	23%	51%	80%

Excluding Specialised Hospitals e.g. Mowbray Maternity, Psychiatric Hospitals, etc

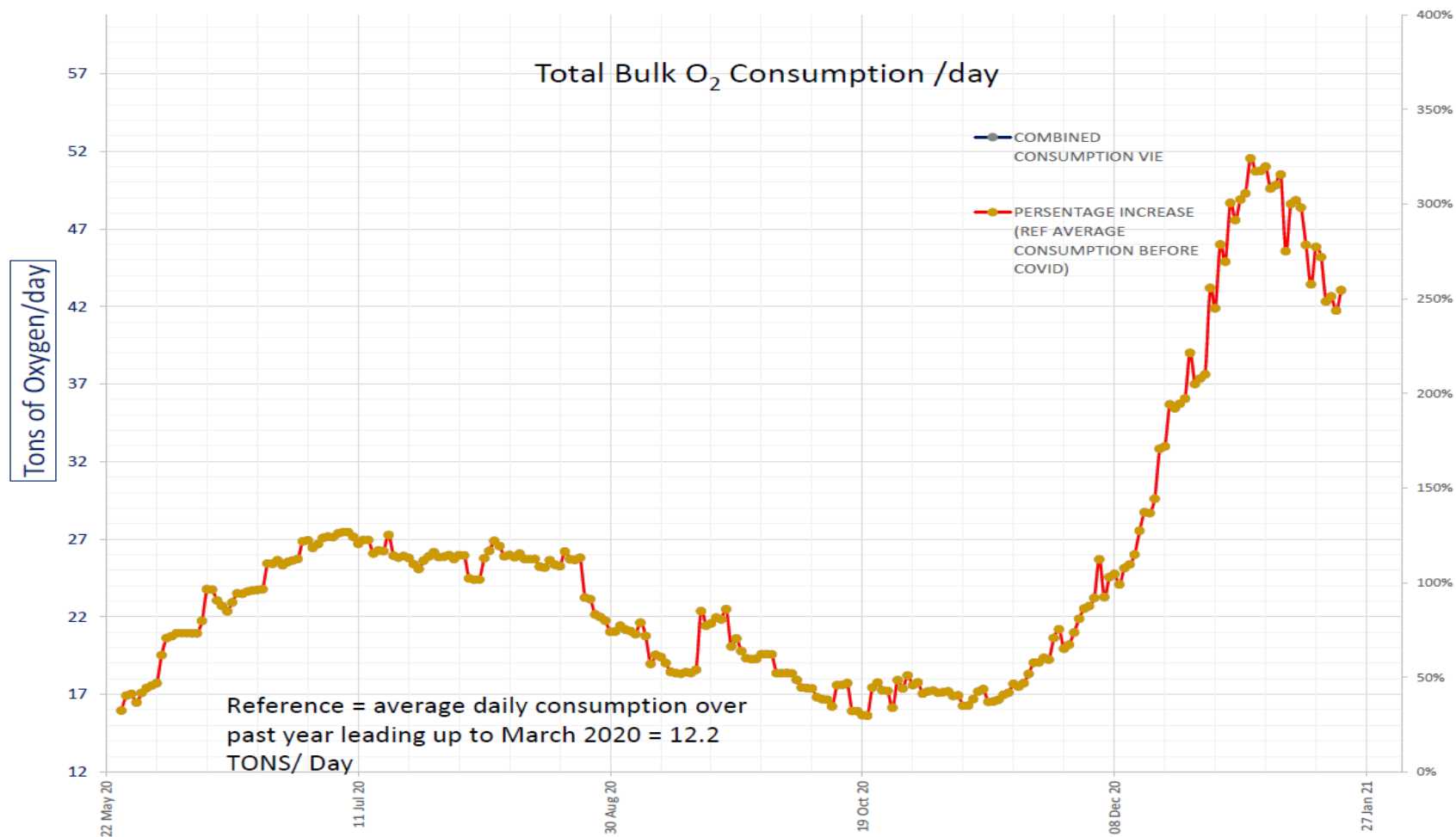
Overall

Covid specific beds

Provincial oxygen consumption at 68.49 % of total capacity



Total bulk oxygen consumption / day



Oxygen utilisation – general comments

1. The combined oxygen utilisation in the Western Cape Public and private hospital sectors is **68.49 tons/day** (after **a peak of 80 tons/day**).
2. Whilst Public sector hospital consumption is at **68.49%** of the Western Cape production capacity, the additional **31.51%** is used by the private sector – the **combined utilisation is now below the maximal production capacity** of **70 tons/day** at the Afrox Western Cape plant.
3. Afrox has continued to bring **additional oxygen into the province daily**, to augment the provincial supplies. There is **232 tons in all hospital tanks** and the bulk store has **169 tons in reserve**.
4. The Western Cape now have **4 bulk oxygen tankers** allocated for the daily delivery of oxygen supplies during this week.
5. We will **continue to monitor the utilisation of oxygen** over the coming weeks, **the situation has stabilised**.

Safe-guarding well-being of health care workers

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

HEALTHCARE WORKERS INFECTED WITH COVID-19 -DAILY TRENDS

Totals as at 27 Jan 2021

Cumulative Infections

8,599

-



8,057

-



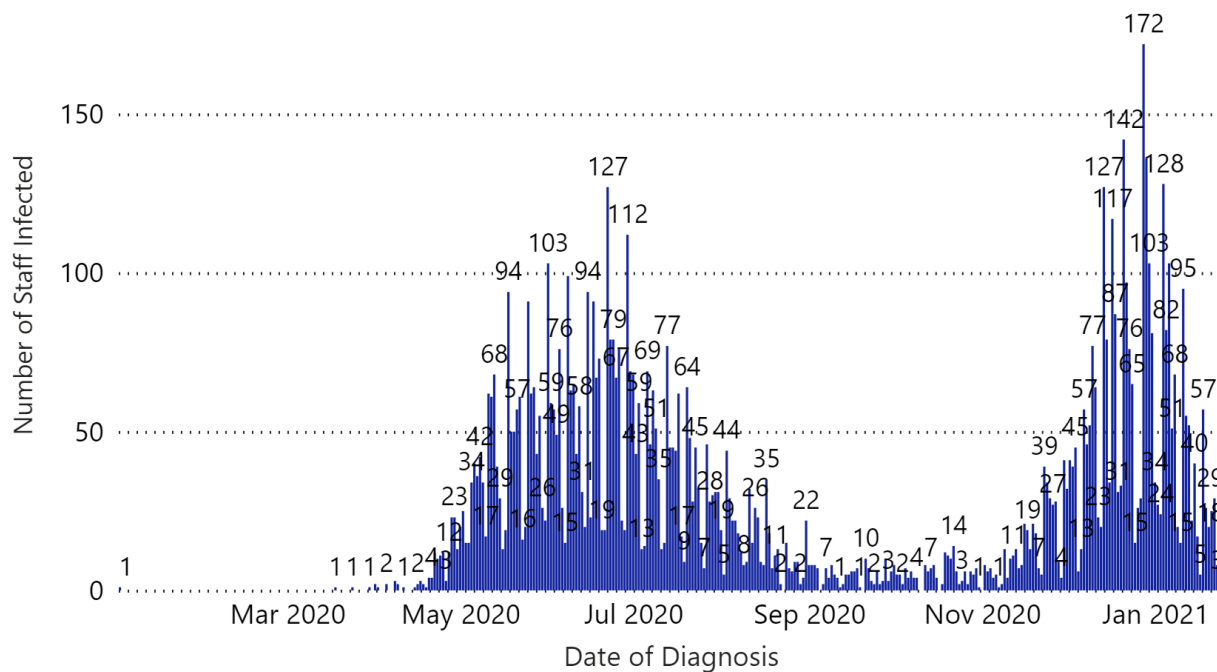
109

=

Active Cases

433

Daily Staff Infection Trends



Doctors



43

Nurses



188

Radiographers



13

Pharmacists



2

Other
Categories



187

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

HEALTHCARE WORKERS MORTALITY DUE TO COVID-19

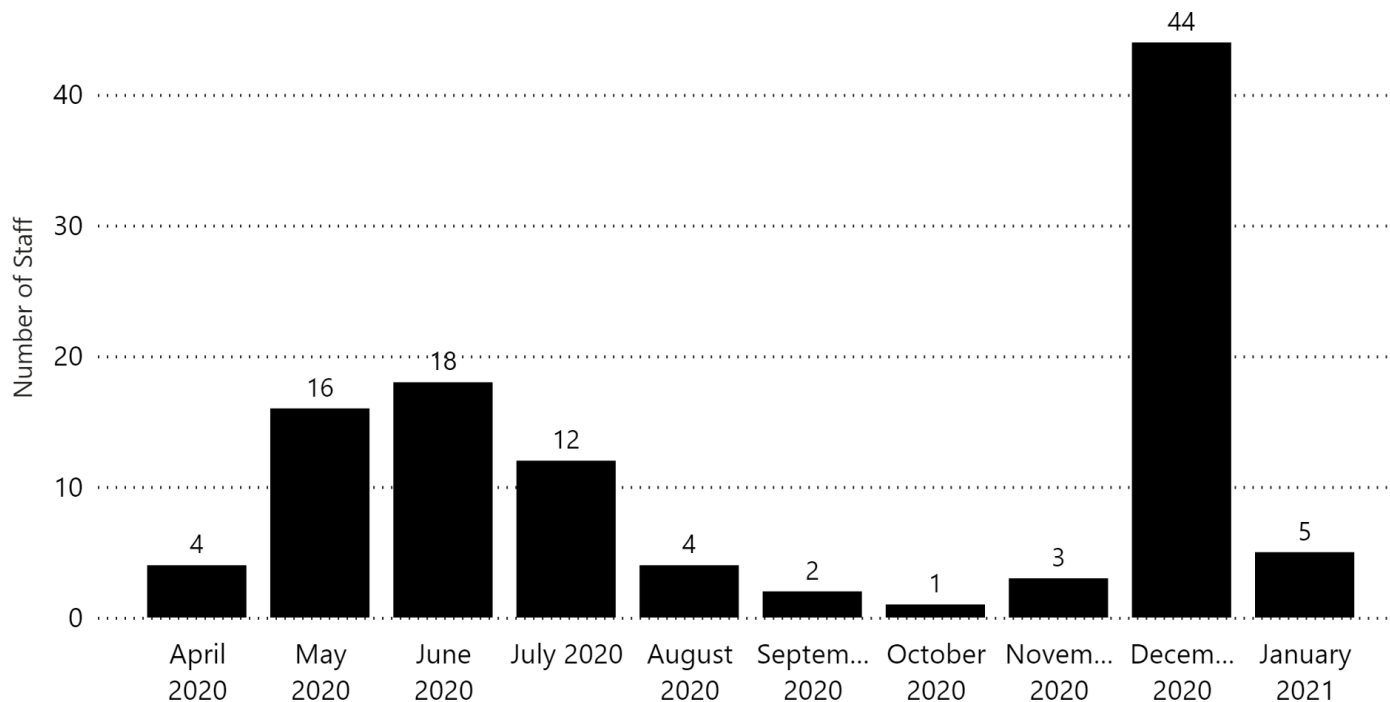


Totals as at 27 Jan 2021



= 109

STAFF MORTALITY TRENDS DUE TO COVID-19



Doctors



1

Nurses



50

Radiographers



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Pharmacists



(Blank)

Other Categories

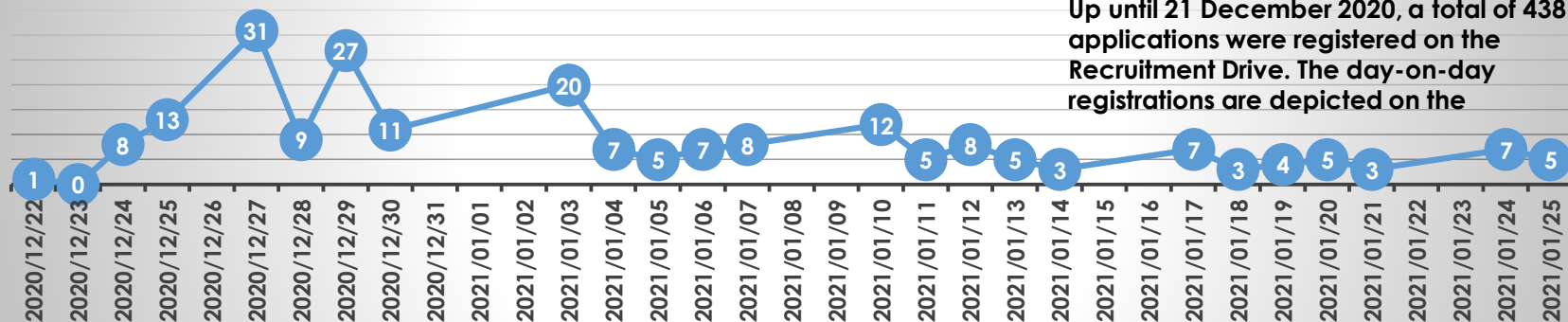


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High Level Summary on Recruitment Drive

Number of new entries on the Recruitment Drive

Up until 21 December 2020, a total of 438 applications were registered on the Recruitment Drive. The day-on-day registrations are depicted on the



Category of HCW	Possibly Available	Appointed on PERSAL
MO	142	20
Enrolled Nurse(EN)	100	11
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliary (ENA)	117	13
Not Indicated	28	5
Professional Nurse	124	48
Professional Nurse with Specialty	36	8
	547	105

Institutions have made 311 Offers to the following categories of staff:

OSD-Category Rank	Filled	Reserved Posts	Grand Total
Allied Health	17	10	27
Doctors	61	25	86
Nursing	638	262	900
Pharmacists	5	1	6
Pharmacists-Assistant	10	1	11
Social Workers	8	1	9
Admin and Related	144	11	155
Grand Total	883	311	1194

There are currently 883 filled posts across the platform for additional COVID posts, 311 offers are pending finalization which will bring the total to 1194. Of the 652 Recruitment Drive applicants, 105 has thus far been appointed on PERSAL. The balance of which 547 are possibly available for appointment.

Vaccine Implementation update

Vaccine update (1)

1. We have developed an **Implementation Framework** for the roll-out programme – which will be posted on the **WCG: Health website**.
2. **1 million doses** are expected to arrive in the country in the **next few days**.
3. There is a **quality control process** required by **SAPHRA** which will be accelerated.
4. The **Biovac Institute** will be responsible for **distribution of the vaccines** to provinces.
5. The vaccines are **anticipated to arrive within the next 2 weeks** within provinces.
6. In the **Western Cape**, the **WC DOH** have accepted responsibility for the **distribution of vaccines** within the province.
7. The distribution will be **undertaken** by our **Central Medical Depot** to WCG: Health facilities, private sector facilities and COCT facilities.

Vaccine update (2) : Phases and Prioritisation Groups

Phase I

- **Health Care Workers :**
 - Public & Private Health Sectors
 - Care Workers
 - CHWs
 - Health Science students
 - Traditional Healers

- **Estimated target:**
 - 105 000

Phase II

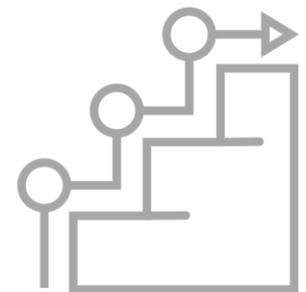
- Essential Workers
- Clients in congregate settings
- Older than 60 Years
- Older than 18 yrs with Co-morbidities

- **Estimated target :**
 - 2m

Phase III

- Older than 18 years

- **Estimated target :**
 - 2,9m



Vaccine update (3)

8. The allocation of doses to provinces is being finalised nationally.

- The Covishield vaccine will be used for **both doses** to each health care worker.
- There will be some **prioritisation** required within phase I to accommodate **the sequencing in line with the available doses**. Some of the considerations include:
 - Patient facing vs non patient facing health care workers
 - EMS, Acute hospitals, mortuary workers, PHC, care workers, traditional healers and students
 - The NDOH and our Expert Advisory Committee are busy applying their minds to finalise prioritization.

9. Micro planning is in progress :

- This includes identifying **vaccination sites** – which must be accredited as per a national checklist.
- Identify the specific **vaccinators** at each site – which must be accredited after training.
- This will then form the basis of the distribution hub and spoke model in the different geographic areas.
- The NDOH has developed **tools** to upload the master facility lists and this is being completed.

Staff Readiness: Rapid Poll Results

Number of respondents at the time of Report: **1680**

2. Age

[More Details](#)

18 - 29	297
30 - 39	498
40 - 49	391
50 - 59	391
60+	103

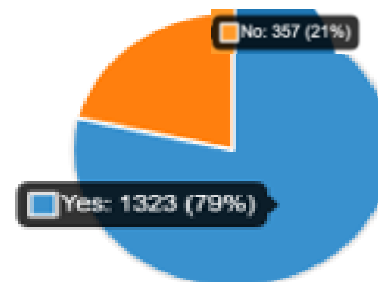


3. Are you a Frontline Worker (direct contact with clients / public / patients)?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

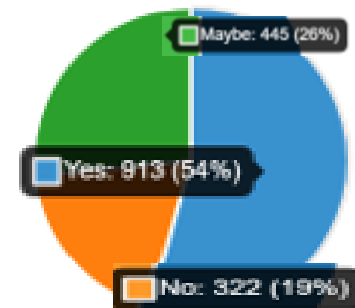
Yes	1323
No	357



Staff Opinion Poll

5. If you were offered a COVID- 19 vaccine would you take it?

[More Details](#)



Getting to “Yes” – Build the Credibility and Trust

- Credible Information about the vaccines (science and safety)
- Credible sources – Social Media instills fear and mixed messages and Department of Health information is strongly preferred
- Credible advocates – Leadership in healthcare and society

Communication & Messaging

1. **Honest** and **transparent communication** to **build trust** is essential.

2. **Focus Areas:**

- a) Motivating people and all sectors of society - “**lets unite to vaccinate**” - mass social mobilisation
- b) Build “**vaccination confidence**”:
 - Address **medical concerns** - efficacy, new variant, etc.
 - Address **religious** and **cultural concerns**
 - Address **mis-information**
- c) Logistics around **availability, accessibility** and **acceptability**

Workforce Readiness: TOOLKIT

1

Frequently Asked Questions

- Science and Implementation
- People Management Matters



2

Standard Presentation with Voice Over



3

Manager's Conversational Guide



4

Updated Publications and Information



Gearing Up to Vaccinate

1

Communicate and Engage

- Preparing Managers to Lead
- Staff Engagements
- Inform Organised Labour
- Leave Policies and COIDA prescripts (DPSA)

2

Capacitate

- Comprehensive Training (Aligned to NDOH)
- Toolkit - on website (FAQs; Videos; Guides)
- Access to latest research/ expert opinions

3

Offer Support

- Employee Wellbeing Programme
- Vaccination Equipment and Supplies
- PPE and OHS System
- Grief and Healing

Workforce Readiness: Training for Vaccinators

Training for Vaccinators

- Eligibility Criteria
- Nursing Students and Medical Students (Phase 2 and Phase 3)

TRAINING PROGRAMME		
TRAINING INTERVENTION	MODE OF DELIVERY	TARGET GROUP
COVID-19 VACCINE TRAINING	3-hour podcast, available via online link or flash drive (Stellmed and PDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• vaccinators• team managers• support staff (e.g., pharmacy)
WEEKLY SHORT UPDATE TRAINING CHECK-INS	MS Teams (PDC and content experts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccinators• team managers• support staff (e.g., pharmacy) <p>NOTE: Alternatively, one member of the COVID-19 vaccine team will update the rest of the team members.</p>
COVID-19 INFORMATION SESSIONS	Online / Presentation by the Knowledge Translation Unit with the support of the Communications Directorate	All Health Care Workers

Communication



GIVE REASSURANCE – EVIDENCE-LED QUALITY INFORMATION: GOOD SET OF TOOLS TO BE USED INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY (TO FORM THE FOUNDATION OF DISCOURSE) E.G. FAQ/INFO SHEET AND VOICE-OVER SLIDE PRESENTATION



INSPIRE TRUST THROUGH ADVOCACY AND INFO SHARING: THROUGH A RANGE OF EXPERT VOICES AND “LOCAL” TRUSTED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE HEALTH SYSTEM. NOT A PUNITIVE APPROACH, BUT RESPECTFUL AND REASONABLE, YET HOPEFUL



HEAR VOICES, GIVE HONEST FEEDBACK AND BE OPEN AND RESPONSIVE: ALWAYS GIVE ADEQUATE TIME IN SESSIONS FOR LISTENING AND CAPTURING FEEDBACK TO ENSURE WE MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE. COUNTER POLARIZATION, WHILE ACCEPTING WE WILL NOT WIN ALL

Conclusions

Concluding remarks

1. We **have passed the peak** of the **2nd wave** in the Western Cape, with **clear and consistent signs** of decline in **cases, hospitalisation and deaths**.
2. Our **local teams** remain on **high alert for surveillance & response** to localised clusters, **especially for the vulnerable**.
3. We should remain vigilant and continue to **adhere to protective behaviours to reduce new cases** – while restrictions are lifted in a phased manner.
4. Our **health care workers have faced** significant **mental and emotional strain**. We have started an **intentional process** of **grieving and healing**.
5. It is essential to maintain a **strong focus on behaviour change** to ensure containment for the **coming months**, as we gear up access to **vaccines**, and **prepare for** a very likely **3rd wave**.
6. We should gear up the **implementation of vaccines** as the **key drive against COVID** over the coming months.

Thank you