

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

24  
APRIL  
2020

## Growth of laboratory confirmed Covid-19 cases in Western Cape

**Q: Is the Western Cape actively finding those who may be infected by Covid-19?**

**A:** Yes. Part of our health department's active case finding approach to the pandemic is to make sure that we identify every person who might have been infected with Covid-19 as quickly as possible, and so we do expect the number of laboratory confirmed Covid-19 cases to climb in our province.

**Q: Why is identifying people who may have been infected so important?**

**A:** Identifying every person who might have been infected is very important because if we know someone is Covid-19 positive, we can ensure that they isolate, and we can stop the spread the virus to others.

We can also follow up with their contacts immediately and start the process all over again. It also means that we can care for those who might be very sick because of the virus.

**Q: How many people have been screened and tested in the last week?**

**A:** Over the past week, nearly 9000 tests have been conducted in the province as part of this active case finding approach.

Since the start of April, our community screening teams have reached over 150 000 people in communities across the province.

**Q: What is the active case finding approach adopted by the Western Cape?**

**A:** The Western Cape adopts a data-led approach to screening and testing, where our screening teams actively follow the “bush fires” – the pockets of infections within communities.

We identify these pockets whenever we confirm a Covid-19 case, and our rigorous contact tracing teams track their previous movements and contacts.

Our screening identifies those who are symptomatic and refers these residents for testing.

**Q: What is our strategy going forward?**

**A:** Our strategy is to do this active case finding approach even more rigorously, as we confirm cases that are already in our communities.

This is the best way to contain the virus and to flatten the curve.

**Q: What do you need to do to help?**

**A:** Every single one of us needs to continue to play our part to flatten the curve. If we do this, we can prevent our health system from being overwhelmed, and we can save many lives.

We have to do this by continuing with what we have learnt already: we must always follow good hygiene practises and wear a cloth mask when in public at all times.

We must stay home and keep a distance from others. If we are sick, we must not leave our house: and first call our hotline to find out what to do next.



Western Cape  
Government

LET'S **STOP** THE SPREAD

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[www.westerncape.gov.za](http://www.westerncape.gov.za)