



## SAMLA'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONA COVID-19 VIRUS

Dear SAMLA Members

Waking up on Monday morning we may have found ourselves in a radically different country with the President's address about the corona virus all over national news. President Cyril Ramaphosa after a special cabinet meeting held on Sunday, 15th March 2020 introduced *aggressive measures to combat the corona covid-19 virus*, an invisible enemy which is at war with the world. South Africa has reached within one week 61 confirmed cases of people infected with the virus, and this number is expected to increase in the coming days and weeks. Based on the rapid increase in affected individuals the President declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act.

There is no doubt that should the corona virus hit our poorer communities, the townships, crowded taxis we will face a disastrous situation which will have grave economic consequences for our country. Thus, SAMLA supports the President's call that we stand together and apply the recommended measures to combat the spread of the virus. *"The Thuma Mina moment is upon us, perhaps as never before"*.

We extend our support to all in the healthcare environment who are committed to prevention, diagnosis and treatment, rehabilitation and also to the care of those healthcare providers working on the "frontline" who may soon have to face critically sick ventilated patients who have been affected with the virus. We would like to thank you for your commitment, compassion and caring attitude for facing patients in these high risk clinical environments, because to you safe quality patient care matters.

Prof Ethelwynn L Stellenberg

National Chairperson

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