

# COVID-19 Monitor

Keeping you informed. Here to help you.



7 April 2020

Dear members

Business South Africa (BSA) represents organised business that is actively collaborating with government to use business resources and capacity to support public sector initiatives. It has mobilised volunteer resources from across South African business bodies and organisations, member companies large and small, professional services firms as well as communication specialists, to form focused working groups that are driving a coordinated and proactive programme to mitigate the economic, social and health impacts of COVID-19 on South Africa. Each day we receive important notices and updates from BSA.

Please find the latest notice issued by the Business for South Africa – a message that is supported by the RMI.

## **DO NOT APPLY FOR EXEMPTION IF YOUR BUSINESS IS NOT STRICTLY AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE**

We face one of the biggest and most critical public health challenges in the last century, and the lockdown is undoubtedly the best way of combating the spread of the Coronavirus. At its core is the requirement that we all stay at home, unless it is absolutely essential to go out.

Against this background, Business for South Africa (B4SA) is aware of a number of businesses that are applying for exemption as an essential service in an attempt to continue operating, and many requests are not strictly within the definition of an essential service. It is critical that we all place the public health imperative ahead of any sectoral commercial interest.

These applications have also overwhelmed and congested government's internal system, resulting in the system being bottlenecked and critically important requests for permission to deliver essential services being delayed. While B4SA fully understands that the lockdown has been demanding on all business, on every individual and each employee, across the board, it is important to be reminded of the core requirement of the lockdown, which is public health and safety. This virus must be stopped and we need to urgently reduce contact between people, which is why we need as many businesses as possible to close their premises now if our one shot at beating the virus is to be successful.

While most employers are supportive that the health and safety of all the people in South Africa is of utmost importance, B4SA is appealing to all institutions to request its corporate and other organisations to assist in informing members that only businesses that are absolutely essential, which is defined as extremely important and necessary, should remain open. If in doubt, the business premises should be closed and all owners and employees must stay home unless absolutely necessary.



RMI's dedicated help email: [rmicovid19info@rmi.org.za](mailto:rmicovid19info@rmi.org.za)