

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **HPCSA CONTINGENCY MEASURES DURING THE COVID – 19 OUTBREAK**

**18 March 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pretoria** – On 15 March 2020, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa declared the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a national disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002.

Subsequent to that pronouncement, the HPCSA invoked its Business Continuity Plan which will govern operations during this period, as a means of limiting physical contact to prevent and reduce the impact of the outbreak. The plan is aimed at ensuring that important services within the HPCSA continue functioning with as little disruption as possible. In principle it means that general staff members will be working from home except for the skeleton staff who are involved in essential services of the HPCSA (mainly registrations) as explained below:

- Provision has been made for registrations applications to be dropped off in boxes that are provided at the HPCSA for processing.
- The HPCSA is encouraging practitioners to refrain from coming to the HPCSA premises to renew their registration, but rather utilise the online renewal portal.

The guidelines on how to use the Online Renewal Portal are available on the HPCSA Website ([www.hpcsa.co.za](http://www.hpcsa.co.za)) or send queries to [info@hpcsa.co.za](mailto:info@hpcsa.co.za) should practitioners encounter any difficulties in registering online, the HPCSA Call Centre will be available to assist practitioners. This arrangement will be in place with effect from 17 March 2020 until further notice.

The HPCSA is also concerned about the well - being of the practitioners during this time and will be further disseminating the Department of Health in collaboration with the National Institute of Communicable Disease Clinical Guidelines for all health practitioners.

**END**

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## **About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)**

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and guiding the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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