

# COVID-19 Minerals Council – health interventions

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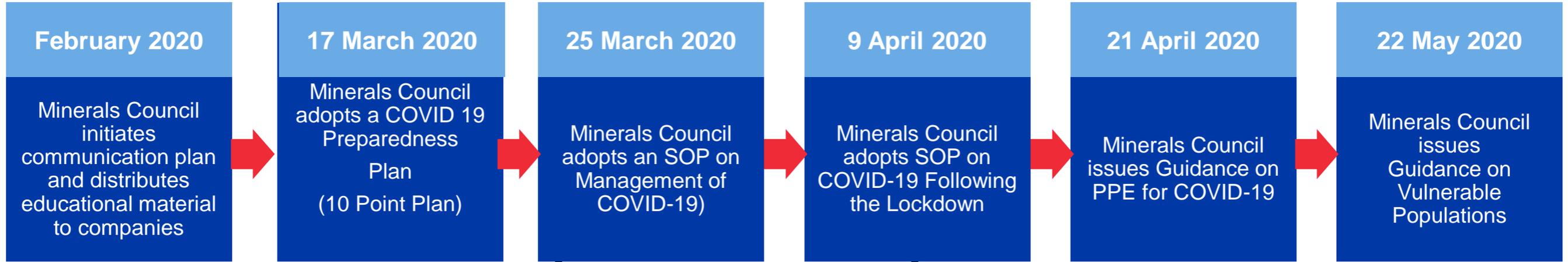


# COVID-19: a black swan



- Novel virus
- Unprecedented socio-economic disruption
- No-one has all the answers - we are all finding the best way to control and mitigate the impact of the disease
- WUHAN

# Minerals Council interventions



## MINING INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19

Minerals Council response

**TIMELINE**

- January 2020: WHO declares COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- Early February 2020: Minerals Council initiates members with revised on-education measures against the virus, targeted at employees. (Materials based on information from NCCD and WIC).
- Week of 9 March 2020: Minerals Council engages with DMRE (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy) regarding the virus.
- 11 March 2020: WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic and the virus reaches more than 100 countries around the world.
- 11 March 2020: Minerals Council issues secret list of substance materials to members.
- 15 March 2020: President Cyril Ramaphosa declares a national state of disaster and suspends measures taken by the country to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 17 March 2020: Minerals Council meets with Director of Mineral Resources and Energy on industry preparedness.

### 10-POINT ACTION PLAN

- Employee education and health promotion for employees, contractors and suppliers**
  - Workplace hygiene
  - Regular, thorough handwashing, using hand rubs
  - Promote good respiratory hygiene, including covering mouth for sneezing and coughing
  - Instructions for anyone with mild cough, fever to isolate
- Health worker readiness**
  - Ensure access for:
  - consultants (nurses, cleaners, materials, glasses, protective gear, etc.) for medical professionals
  - ITP for employees, and hardware (for self-temperature monitoring)
- Ensuring access to consumables**
  - Minerals Council undertakes and promotes this every year
  - Particularly important for people with compromised immunity, the elderly or those with chronic conditions
  - Companies will be identified employees who would be most at risk
  - Identify flu vaccination as a recommendation where possible, with those at risk being a priority
  - Minerals Council recognizes that the flu vaccine does not prevent COVID-19, but it does help to ensure that employees whose systems are not compromised if they should become infected with the virus
- Proactive influenza vaccination**
  - NCCD advises that it is important for employees to understand their HIV status, and to take steps where this is required
  - Companies will be encouraged to ensure employees who would be considered to be most at risk
  - Minerals Council already has an HIV and TB screening campaign through its Mine Health Programme, and this will be intensified
- Case definition and management of suspected or contacts of cases**
  - This will be done in conjunction with the NCCD
- Isolation of employees should the need arise**
  - Engaging with the NCCD on standards, protocols for quarantine, and the potential risk of mis-hospital
  - If required, the mining industry will also explore a regional approach for treatment of cases which includes collaboration between the state and the companies (this will only be considered following guidance from the Doh and NCCD)
- Travel advice**
  - As advised by NCCD, only essential travel to areas with COVID-19 should be undertaken
  - WHO advises that people coming from COVID-19 affected countries should monitor their temperature twice a day and self-isolate once they have symptoms, as well as their health authorities
- Reporting and communication in the mining industry in the event of a case**
  - Any suspected or confirmed case will be reported to the Minerals Council (or in consultation with NCCD)
  - The Minerals Council will monitor and report on industry data
- Monitoring**
  - The Minerals Council will continue to monitor international statistics as provided by credible sources such as the WHO and NCCD

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## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

The Minerals Council South Africa, on behalf of its members, has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to assist in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 in South African mines. This procedure provides guidelines for the management of the employees and healthcare workers returning to work following the COVID-19 South African lockdown. It addresses possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2 the virus responsible for COVID-19 and subsequent illness, isolation and quarantine, and outlines the additional special steps and procedures to be followed in addition to the formal procedure for medical surveillance of any workers returning to work following a significant period of time away from work, based on the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE) standards of fitness to work.

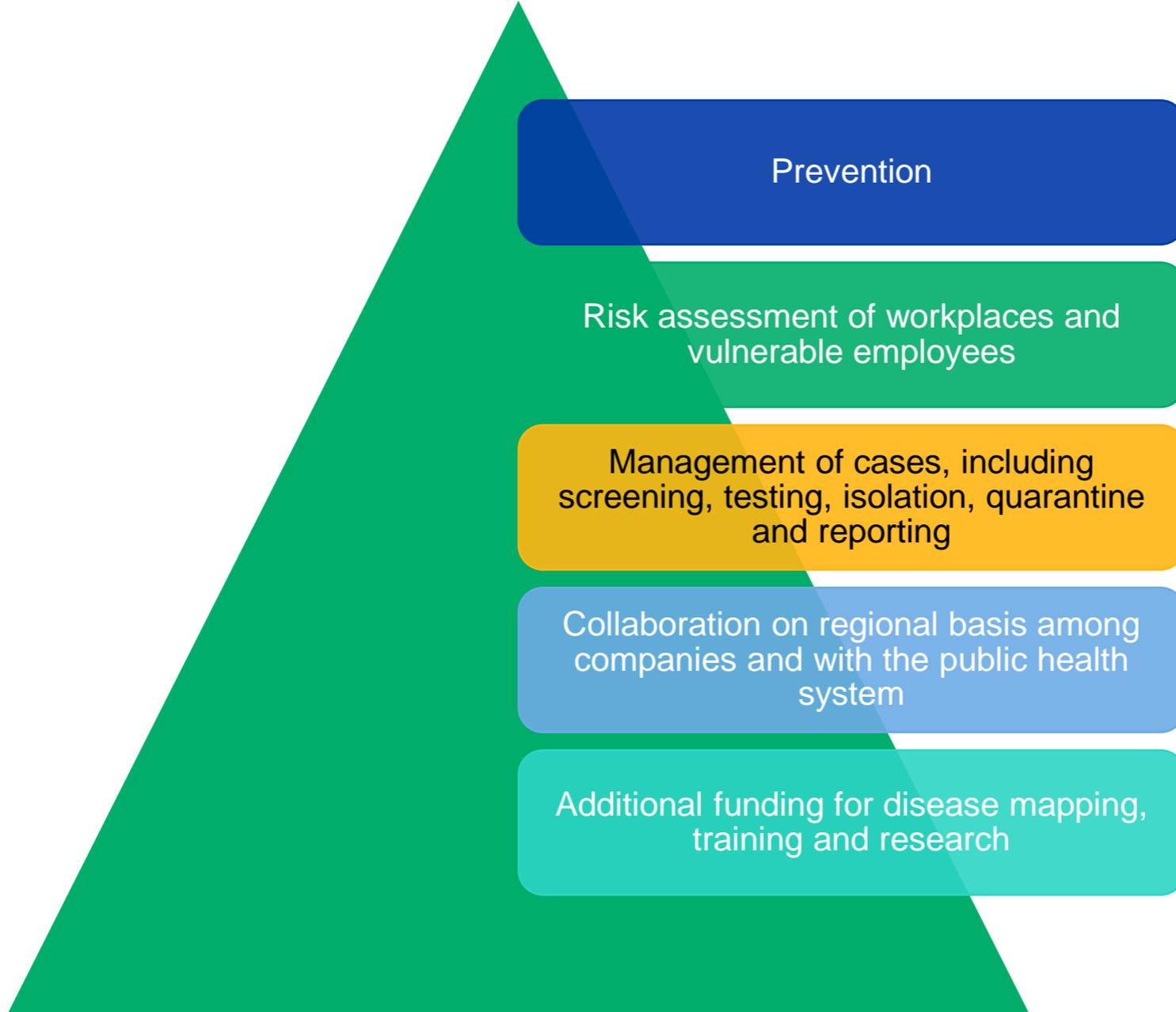
This SOP is aligned with the SOP for Addressing Cases of COVID-19 also prepared by the Minerals Council, and the Guiding Principles on Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in SAM published by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) on 26 March 2020.

- Before arrival**
  - Before employees arrive at work, mining companies should have a return to work procedure in place, ensuring that:
    - Sufficient resources are in place for pre-screening employees, screening areas and working areas
    - Sufficient security, medical, social worker, counselling, employee assistance and administration staff are available
    - Necessary medical and hygiene supplies (PPEs, soap, water, sanitizers) are available
    - High-risk employees are provided with flu vaccinations and prophylaxis
    - Cleaning and disinfecting consumables and services are available
  - Companies are required to:
    - Communicate new procedures for medical surveillance to employees before they leave their areas of residence during the lockdown
    - Screen healthcare workers before they screen employees and daily thereafter
    - Where possible, screen employees in labour-sending areas before they return, and isolate or quarantine at source
    - Apply decontamination, physical distancing during transport
    - Intensify employee awareness and education on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 on their return
    - Inform employees of the duty to report their COVID-19 status if they were tested before returning to work
- After arrival**
  - After employees arrive at work, mining companies should apply **infectious prevention and control measures** to all forms of transport of employees, including pre-screening employees before they enter company accommodation and before entering the work premises and referring employees with elevated temperatures and who meet the NCCD criteria to isolation areas for assessment.
  - Screening and referral
- Isolation area assessment**
  - Employees should be assessed for COVID-19 signs and symptoms in an isolation area. Employees who meet the NCCD criteria of a person under investigation must be referred to the designated Isolation Centre for testing.
  - Employees whose test results are positive for COVID-19, are not very sick and have the capacity to self-isolate may do so at home for 14 days. Necessary PPE must be provided and contact tracing undertaken.
  - The medical centre team must follow-up telephonically with the employee on a daily basis, record progress and refer to hospital if required.
  - A register must be kept of employees presenting symptoms and who are referred for isolation (DOH guidelines).
- Follow-up**
  - Employees must call the medical centre to arrange for an assessment and the issuing of a clearance letter after the isolation/admission period. Only after the fitness to work assessment, may a return to work note be issued and the line manager advised.
  - Continuous measures to be applied at work** include training of staff and employees, continually re-enforcing universal hygiene precautions, enforcing physical distancing in the workplace, continue use of facemasks, and promotion of good hygiene practices.
  - Case reporting** should be done through the NCCD surveillance programme. Reports should also be submitted to the Minerals Council and DMRE. COIDA reporting applies to healthcare workers who become infected from a known source in the workplace.
- Continuous measures**
- Reporting**

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The full SOP may be downloaded from: <https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/minerals-council-position-on-covid-19>

# Key elements of interventions



# DMRE Guideline on COVID-19

- Published on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and effective 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- Regulates the mining industry on COVID-19.
- Available on Minerals Council website.
- DMRE inspectors monitor implementation.
- Collaboration between DMRE and DOH essential, with DOH acting as advisor.

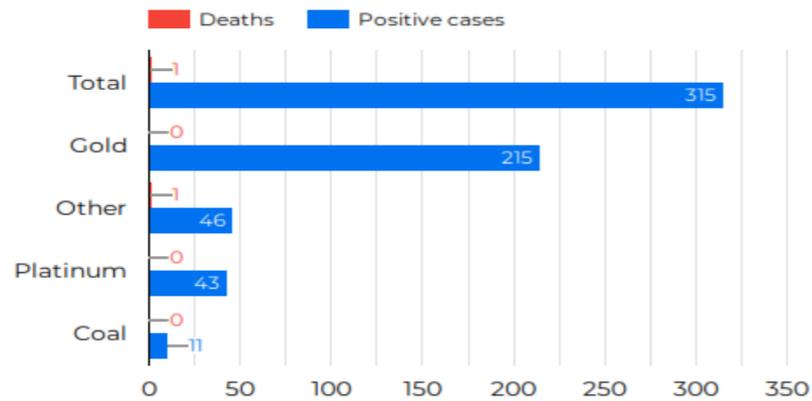
# Statistics



## COVID-19 DASHBOARD



Cases and deaths per commodity to date



Global statistics

Cases	5,698,421
Deaths	352,475
Recovered	2,443,803

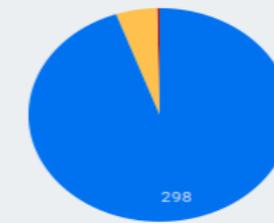
SA statistics

Cases	24,264
Deaths	524
Recovered	12,741

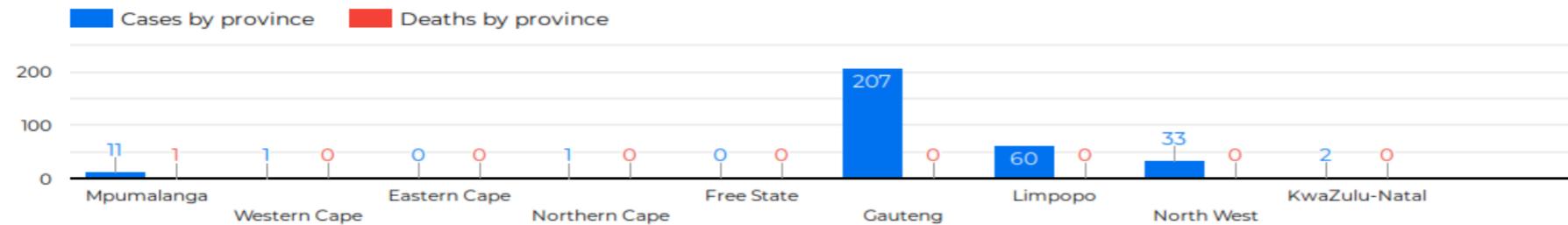
Mining statistics

Number of mines	385
Employees screened	209,170
Employees tested	4,241
Confirmed cases	315

Active cases Recovered Deaths



Cases and deaths per region to date



# South African Context

- The epidemic is maturing.
- Most provinces with mining operations have low testing rates:

Province	Tests done per 100 000 population
Western Cape	1 211
Gauteng	837
Free State	667
KZN	601
Eastern Cape	568
Northern Cape	291
Mpumalanga	249
North West	144
Limpopo	138

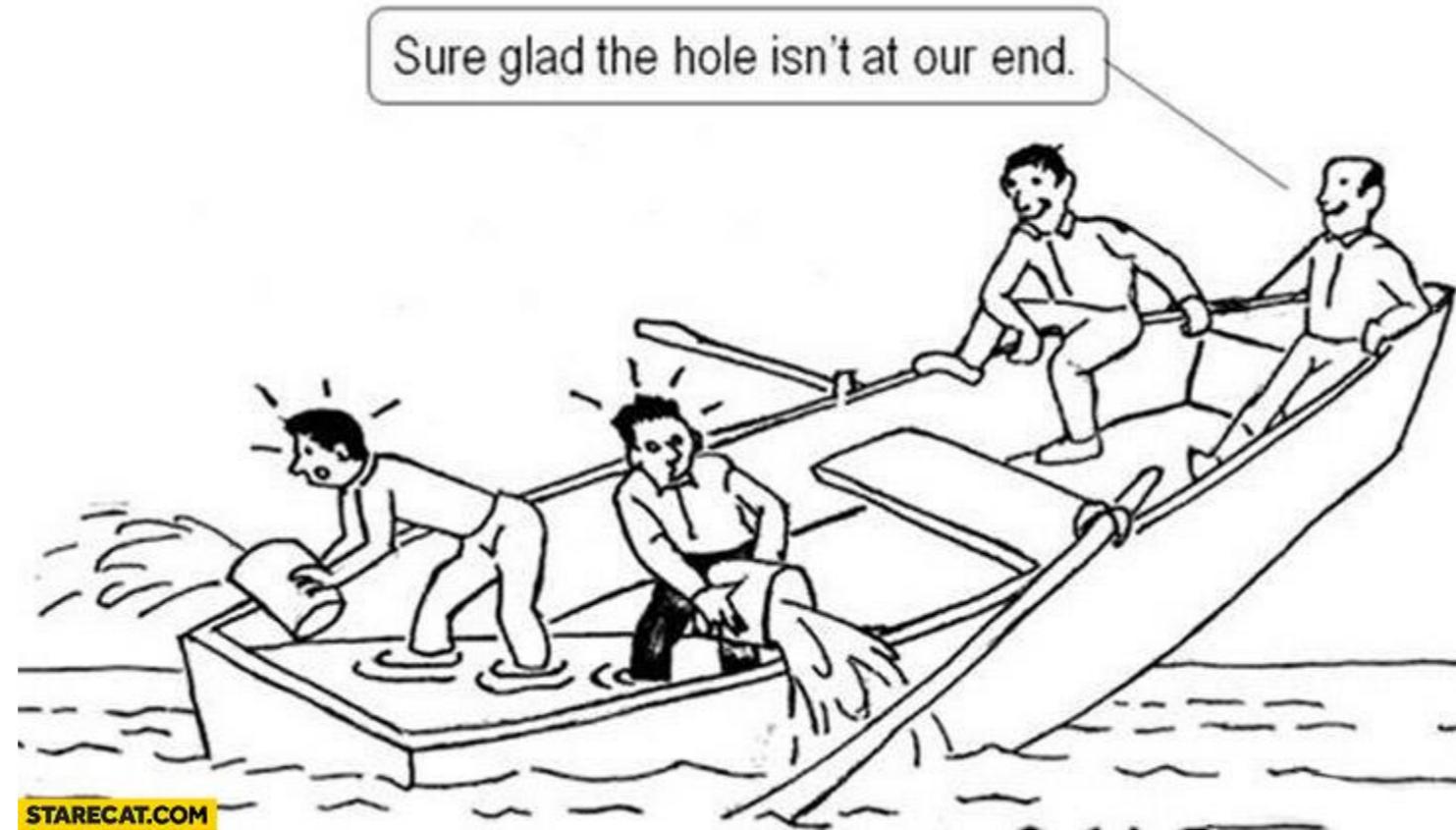
- Need to consider more testing and collaboration.

# Key insights

- “The epidemic will be with us for some time- We have to live with it”. *Minister Mantashe, 26<sup>th</sup> May*
- “Save lives and livelihoods” *Mr Mxolisi Mgojo, President Minerals Council, 26<sup>th</sup> May*
- Should we be testing?
  - Public health approach says test more.
  - Testing constraints in country.
  - Follow National Institute for Communicable Diseases Protocols.
  - Mass screening following incidents has revealed high levels of COVID-19, mostly undetected.
  - Value of testing when epidemic is ramping up?
- Asymptomatic cases
  - High rates
  - Not clear what their outcomes will be or if it’s a special population currently at work.
- Closure of mines due to COVID-19
  - Meeting with CloM.
  - Will we be able to continue to stop and start for cases?
- The future is clear, .....as MUD

# Conclusion

We are in this together



# Thank you

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