

VETFLASH!

Dear SAVA member,

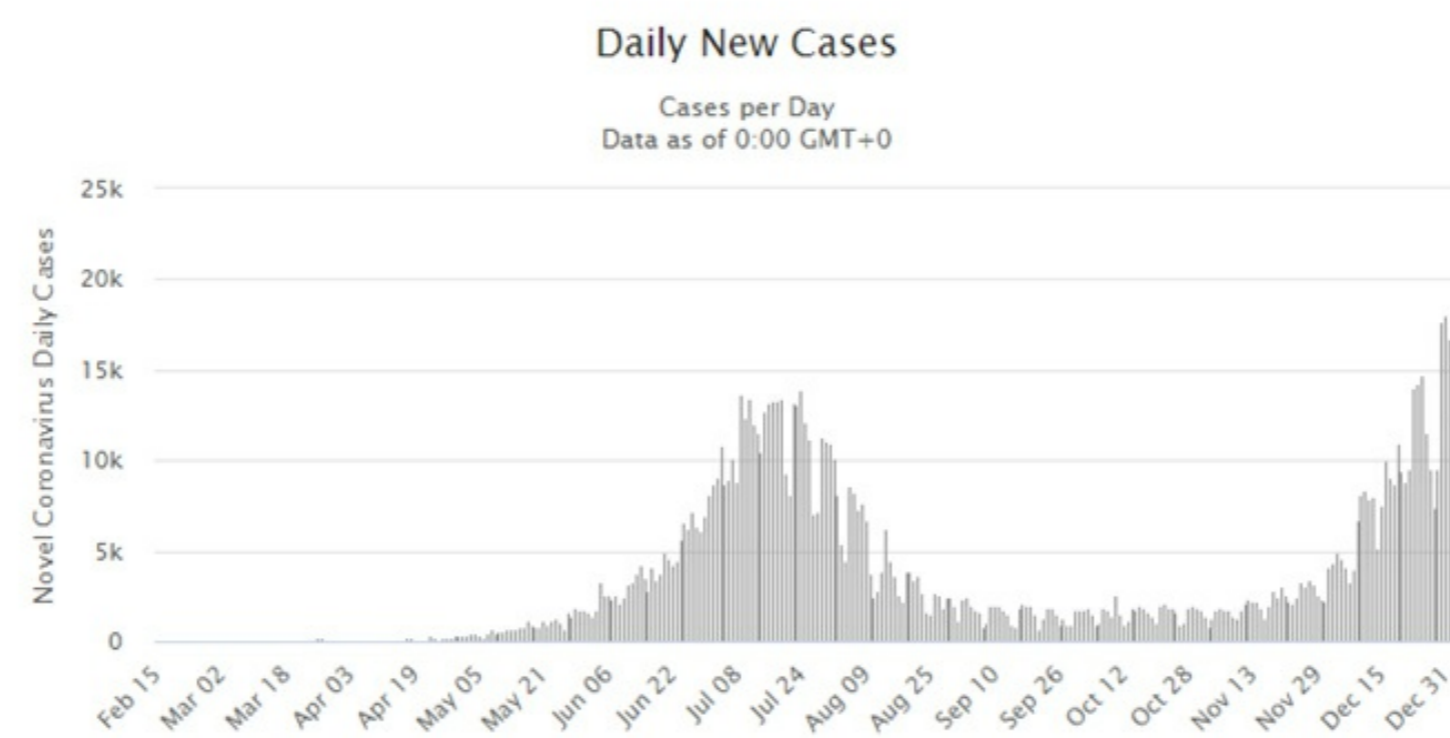
You will undoubtedly have noted the dramatic increase in Covid-19 cases in South Africa over the past month as well as indications of a new variant, referred to as 501.V2.

"It is still very early but at this stage, the preliminary data suggests the virus that is now dominating in the second wave is spreading faster than the first wave," Prof Salim Abdool Karim: Chairman of the government's ministerial advisory committee (MAC). Quoted from The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/22/south-africa-struggles-contain-second-covid-wave-new-strain>

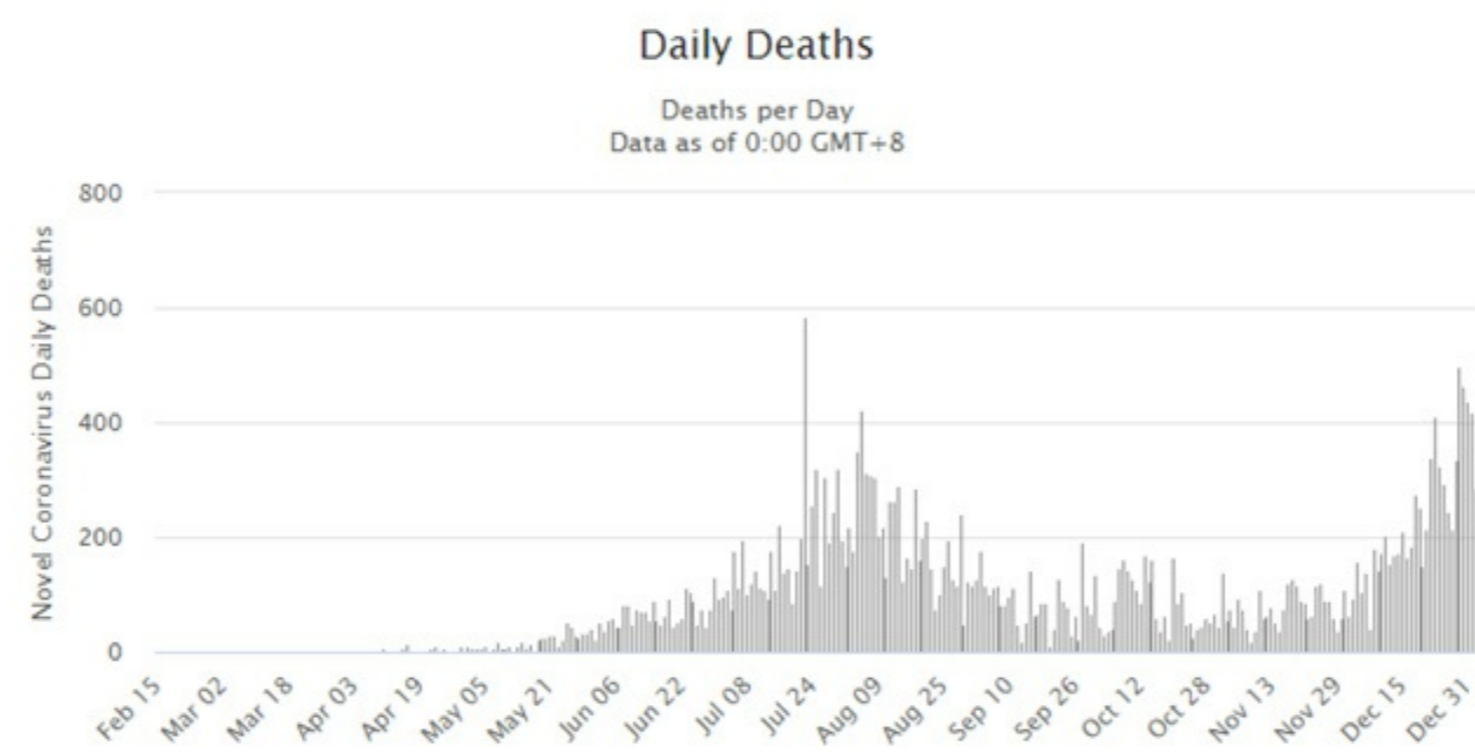
President Ramaphosa called an urgent meeting of the National Coronavirus Command Council, having met on the 6th of January 2021 to discuss responses to the so-called second wave.

The graphs below are sourced from <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/south-africa/>.

Daily New Cases in South Africa



Daily New Deaths in South Africa



It is evident that the situation is much more critical than it was at the early stages (April/May 2020) as well as during July 2020. The figures from the 6th of January 2021 indicates the largest infections and deaths on a single day: 21,832 infections and 844 deaths.

Whilst we do not make any predictions as to potential actions in response to the resurgence, we deem it appropriate to request you to practice increased vigilance in your practice and work environment.

I attach the SAVA Guidelines from April 2020 and request you to read it again for guidance. Animal health and welfare has been identified as an essential service in past regulations, therefore regardless of any amendments to regulations, it is highly improbable that this this to change. Without making reference to any particular level, current or anticipated, the following is recommended:

1. As far as possible, see clients by appointment only.
2. Consider postponing non-essential or elective surgical interventions
3. Screen clients when entering your premises and keep a record of client visits
4. Keep clients in waiting areas to an absolute minimum
5. Masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing must be strictly enforced
6. Allow employees that can work from home, to work from home
7. Limit travel and farm visits as far as possible but if unavoidable, wear masks, sanitize regularly and maintain social distancing at all times.

For our members that are not working in a practice: work from home as far as possible and use the multitude of meeting platforms available to have meetings.

Best regards,
Gert Steyn
SAVA: Managing Director