

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[HST in the News](#)

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

HST IN THE NEWS

SA's healthcare system has only around 3 000 critical care hospital beds available ... and it is not enough

News 24 | 20 March 2020.

South Africa appears to be woefully underprepared for a serious escalation in Covid-19 cases, with roughly 3 000 out of about 7 000 critical care beds available between the public and private healthcare sectors, according to best estimates.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

COVID-19: protecting health-care workers

The Lancet | Published: 21 March 2020.

Editorial

Worldwide, as millions of people stay at home to minimise transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, health-care workers prepare to do the exact opposite. They will go to clinics and hospitals, putting themselves at high risk from COVID-2019. Figures from China's National Health Commission show that more than 3300 health-care workers have been infected as of early March and, according to local media, by the end of February at least 22 had died. In Italy, 20% of responding health-care workers were infected, and some have died. Reports from medical staff describe physical and mental exhaustion, the torment of difficult triage decisions, and the pain of losing patients and colleagues, all in addition to the infection risk.

"My partner was not fond of using condoms and I was not on contraception": understanding adolescent mothers' perspectives of sexual risk behaviour in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

BMC Public Health | Published: 18 March 2020.

Desiree Govender, Saloshni Naidoo, Myra Taylor

Adolescent pregnancy has been a persistent area of interest and concern in the field of public health. The debate about adolescents' sexual risk behaviour has also gained prominence due to findings that have demonstrated that adolescent girls between 15 and 19 years of age give birth to 16 million infants and account for 62% of new HIV infections in the Caribbean and African regions. Health compromising behaviours often develop in adolescence, yet the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent mothers is often marginalised in the healthcare field. The aim of this study was to explore adolescent mothers' understanding of sexual risk behaviour.

Forecasts of mortality and economic losses from poor water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa

PlosOne | Published: 20 March 2020.

David Fuente, Maura Allaire, Marc Jeuland, Dale Whittington

This paper presents country-level estimates of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related mortality and the economic losses associated with poor access to water and sanitation infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) from 1990 to 2050. We examine the extent to which the changes that accompany economic growth will "solve" water and sanitation problems in SSA and, if so, how long it will take. Our simulations suggest that WASH-related mortality will continue to differ markedly across countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In many countries, expected economic growth alone will not be sufficient to eliminate WASH-related mortality or eliminate the economic losses associated with poor access to water and sanitation infrastructure by 2050. In other countries, WASH-related mortality will sharply decline, although the economic losses associated with the time spent collecting water are forecast to persist.

The relationships between cognitive function, literacy and HIV status knowledge among older adults in rural South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 23 March 2020.

Molly Rosenberg F Xavier Gómez-Olivé Ryan G Wagner Julia Rohr Collin F Payne Lisa Berkman, et al

Although HIV prevalence is exceptionally high in South Africa, HIV testing rates remain below targeted guidelines. Older adults living with HIV are substantially more likely to remain undiagnosed than younger people. Cognitive function and literacy could play key roles in HIV status knowledge due to the decision-making processes required around weighing the costs and benefits of testing, navigating testing logistics and processing results. We aimed to assess the independent relationships among each of cognitive function, literacy and education with HIV status knowledge in a population-based sample of older adults living in a rural South African community with high HIV prevalence

Southern African HIV Clinicians Society guideline for the prevention, diagnosis and management of cryptococcal disease among HIV-infected persons: 2019 update

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 8 November 2019.

Nelesh P Govender, Graeme Meintjes, Phetho Mangena, Jeremy Nel, Samantha Potgieter, Denasha Reddy, et al

Six years after the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society cryptococcal disease guideline was published in 2013, cryptococcal meningitis (CM) remains an important cause of mortality among antiretroviral treatment (ART)-naïve and ART-experienced HIV-seropositive adults in South Africa. Several important practice-changing developments led [the authors] to update the guideline to diagnose, prevent and manage this common fungal opportunistic infection.

Medicine shortages and challenges with the procurement process among public sector hospitals in South Africa; findings and implications

BMC Health Services Research | Published: 19 March 2020.

Cynthia Modisakeng, Moliehi Matlala, Brian Godman, Johanna Catharina Meyer

Medicine shortages are a complex global challenge affecting all countries. This includes South Africa where ongoing medicine shortages are a concern among public sector hospitals as South Africa strives for universal access to healthcare. The objectives of this research were to highlight challenges in the current pharmaceutical procurement process for public sector hospitals. Subsequently, suggest potential ways forward based on the findings as the authorities in South Africa seek to improve the procurement process.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

New WHO recommendations to prevent tuberculosis aim to save millions of lives

World Health Organisation | 24 March 2020.

New World Health Organization (WHO) guidance will help countries accelerate efforts to stop people with tuberculosis (TB) infection becoming sick with TB by giving them preventive treatment.

Médecins Sans Frontières Announces Campaign For \$5 COVID-19 Test On ‘GeneXpert’ TB Platform

Health Policy Watch | 24 March 2020.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on Tuesday launched a campaign to push for a US \$5 price tag on a new COVID-19 rapid diagnostic test that can be used on GeneXpert, a diagnostic instrument widely deployed around the world for diagnosing tuberculosis.

WHO launches global megatrial of the four most promising coronavirus treatments

Science | 22 March 2020.

A drug combo already used against HIV. A malaria treatment first tested during World War II. A new antiviral whose promise against Ebola fizzled last year.

Could any of these drugs hold the key to saving COVID-19 patients from serious harm or death?

UK coronavirus home testing to be made available to millions

The Guardian | 25 March 2020.

Millions of 15-minute home coronavirus tests are set to be available on the high street or for Amazon delivery to people self-isolating, according to Public Health England (PHE), in a move that could restore many people’s lives to a semblance of pre-lockdown normality.

Coronavirus treatment developed by Gilead Sciences granted “rare disease” status, potentially limiting affordability

The Intercept | 24 March 2020.

On Monday afternoon, the Food and Drug Administration granted Gilead Sciences “orphan” drug status for its antiviral drug, remdesivir. The designation allows the pharmaceutical company to profit exclusively for seven years from the product, which is one of dozens being tested as a possible treatment for Covid-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus.

The facts beat the quacks: Our #Covid19SA vs. our #HIV response

Bhekisisa | 25 March 2020.

Reporting on Covid-19 and HIV in South Africa is like night and day, Mia Malan, who has reported on both epidemics, writes.

Keeping the Coronavirus from Infecting Health-Care Workers

The New Yorker | 21 March 2020.

The message is getting out: #StayHome. In this early phase of the coronavirus pandemic, with undetected cases accelerating transmission even as testing ramps up, that is critical. But there are many people whom the country needs to keep going into work.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2020 southern hemisphere influenza season

World Health Organisation | September 2019.

WHO convenes technical consultations in February and September each year to recommend viruses for inclusion in influenza vaccines for the northern and southern hemisphere influenza seasons, respectively. This recommendation relates to the influenza vaccines for use in the forthcoming southern hemisphere 2020 influenza season.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Making the Switch: Saving More Lives with Optimal Treatment for Drug-Resistant TB

Medecins sans Frontieres | March 2020.

New evidence on DR-TB management from clinical trials and observational cohorts has been emerging more frequently in recent years. WHO guidelines have kept pace, issuing new MDR/RR-TB treatment guidelines in March 2019, as well as a Rapid Communication with further updates in December 2019. This technical brief provides a summary of the treatment regimens now recommended by WHO, which represent hope for people with DR-TB and their caregivers because they offer better cure rates and fewer side effects using safer, shorter all-oral treatment.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Due to the disruption COVID-19 has caused the conferencing industry many events have been cancelled or postponed. As a result of this uncertainty we have decided not to list any conferences and events in the Bulletin for the time being.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

CareWorks: Ugu NIMART Nurse

Closing Date: 27 March 2020

JSI: HIV Testing Services (HTS) and Community Counselor X20

Closing Date: 27 March 2020

Health Systems Trust: Programme Manager

Closing Date: 8 April 2020

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Health Systems Trust · 34 Essex Terrace · Westville · Durban, KZN 3630 · South Africa

