

HST Bulletin



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HST IN THE NEWS

Taxi industry officials aim to bring Covid-19 to a halt

Vryheid Herald | 4 April 2020.

Officials from the taxi industry and campaign partners helped commuters understand the threat of the coronavirus and how to safeguard themselves, and provided hand sanitiser to them.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

First known person-to-person transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the USA

The Lancet | Published: 4 April 2020.

Isaac Ghinai, Tristan D McPherson, Jennifer C Hunter, Hannah L Kirking, Demian Christiansen, Kiran Joshi, et al

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), first detected in China in December, 2019. In January, 2020, state, local, and federal public health agencies investigated the first case of COVID-19 in Illinois, USA. Patients with confirmed COVID-19 were defined as those with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test. Contacts were people with exposure to a patient with COVID-19 on or after the patient's symptom onset date. Contacts underwent active symptom monitoring for 14 days following their last exposure. Contacts who developed fever, cough, or shortness of breath became persons under investigation and were tested for SARS-CoV-2. A convenience sample of 32 asymptomatic health-care personnel contacts were also tested.

Economic burden of maternal depression among women with a low income in Cape Town, South Africa

BJPsych Open | Published: 3 April 2020.

Susan Cleary, Stacey Orangi, Emily Garman, Hanani Tabani, Marguerite Schneider, Crick Lund

Maternal depression is a notable concern, yet little evidence exists on its economic burden in low- and

middle-income countries. This study assessed societal costs and economic outcomes across pregnancy to 12 months postpartum comparing women with depression with those without depression. Participants were recruited during the first antenatal visit to primary care clinics in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. In total, 2187 women were screened, and 419 women who were psychologically distressed were retained in the study. Women were interviewed at baseline, 8 months gestation and at 3 and 12 months postpartum; the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression was used to categorise women as having depression or not having depression at each interview.

A scoping review on family medicine in sub-Saharan Africa: practice, positioning and impact in African health care systems

BMC Human Resources for Health | Published: 3 April 2020.

Maaïke Flinkenflögel, Vincent Sethlare, Vincent Kalumire Cubaka, Mpundu Makasa, Abraham Guyse, Jan De Maeseneer

Family medicine (FM) is a relatively new discipline in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), still struggling to find its place in the African health systems. The aim of this review was to describe the current status of FM in SSA and to map existing evidence of its strengths, weaknesses, effectiveness and impact, and to identify knowledge gaps. A scoping review was conducted by systematically searching a wide variety of databases to map the existing evidence. Articles exploring FM as a concept/philosophy, a discipline, and clinical practice in SSA, published in peer-reviewed journals from 2000 onwards and in English language, were included. Included articles were entered in a matrix and then analysed for themes. Findings were presented and validated at a Primafamed network meeting, Gauteng 2018.

Are we doing enough? Improved breastfeeding practices at 14 weeks but challenges of non-initiation and early cessation of breastfeeding remain: findings of two consecutive cross-sectional surveys in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

BMC Public Health | Published: 3 April 2020.

C Horwood, L Haskins, I Engebretsen, C Connolly, A Coutsooudis, L Spies

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Initiative for breastfeeding support (KIBS) was a multipronged intervention to support the initiation and sustaining of breastfeeding, implemented between 2014 and 2017. We present results of two surveys conducted before and after KIBS implementation to assess changes in infant feeding practices in KZN over this time period. Two cross-sectional surveys were conducted in primary health care clinics. Multistage stratified random sampling was used to select clinics and participants.

Primary healthcare services in the rural Eastern Cape, South Africa: Evaluating a service-support project

African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine | Published: 2 April 2020.

Angela A Morris-Paxton, Stephen Reid, Rose-Marie G Ewing

In 2012, 38% of the South African population resided in the rural areas of the country. The professional healthcare services are concentrated in the urban areas, resulting in an imbalance between urban and rural healthcare services. The aim of this study was to evaluate the use of a non-governmental organisation (NGO)-supported mobile healthcare service in a remote area. The walking distance between the community and the nearest fixed government healthcare service was evaluated and compared with the recommendations of World Health Organization (WHO). Services provided to people visiting the mobile community service were recorded, and descriptive data were analysed and compared with the anonymised patient records of the nearest fixed service clinic.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Mothers speak out on infant loss: 'To this day, I don't know why my baby died'

Health-e News | 7 April 2020.

It's every pregnant woman's dream to go home with a healthy baby, but what happens to her psychological wellbeing when her baby dies — either at birth or days after? Hospital-run support groups may help the grieving process, reports OurHealth journalist Marcia Zali.

Adherence clubs help reduce viral load in post-partum SA women living with HIV

Medical Brief | 1 April 2020.

Adherence clubs were linked to a 30% reduction in high viral load among postpartum South African women living with HIV, Aidsmap reports the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2020).

COVID-19: How rural healthcare workers are preparing

Spotlight NSP | 8 April 2020.

As government went on the offensive last week by scaling up testing and screening in communities across the country, some in the rural health sector are also proactively taking measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019).

Ensuring global access to COVID-19 vaccines

The Lancet | 31 March 2020.

The current response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic involves aggressive implementation of suppression strategies, such as case identification, quarantine and isolation, contact tracing, and social distancing. However, models developed by the Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team suggest that “transmission will quickly rebound if interventions are relaxed”.¹ WHO warns of multiple simultaneous outbreaks of COVID-19 worldwide.² The development of COVID-19 vaccines that can be used globally is therefore a priority for ending the pandemic.

Heart Damage in COVID Patients Puzzles Doctors

Scientific American | 6 April 2020.

Up to 1 in 5 hospitalized patients have signs of heart injury. Cardiologists are trying to learn whether the virus attacks the organ.

SA’s first successful genome sequencing of a local SARS-CoV-2 sample will help global fight against the disease

Daily Maverick | 8 April 2020.

South Africa’s first successful genome sequencing of a locally collected sample of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is now being added to an international database to help better understand the disease.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

data@breakfast

University of KwaZulu-Natal: Center for Quantum Technology

The Center for Quantum Technology at UKZN is releasing its “data@breakfast” videos online, which are currently covering issues relating to the Covid-19 virus. Find the “COVID-19 Genomics and Epidemiology” talk presented by Professor Tulio de Oliveira and “Responding to the COVID-19 epidemic: local and global perspective” talk that was given by Dr R Lessels on the linked page.

COVID-19: Tackling the Novel Coronavirus

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Future Learn | Started: 23 March 2020

What is COVID-19 and how might the outbreak affect you? Find out more about coronavirus and explore its worldwide implications. Understand the emergence of COVID-19 and how we respond to it going forward. This free online course has already begun, but can still be joined at any stage. The course is presented in English, with translations provided in Chinese, Spanish (ES), Portuguese (BR), French and Italian.

HST COVID-19 Resource Repository

Health Systems Trust | April 2020.

The Health Systems Trust has published a site containing resources on COVID-19. This site will be regularly updated with information and materials which can be used to educate and inform on preventing the spread of the virus, precautionary measures to be taken, and how to continue receiving or delivering essential health services during the lockdown period.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

State of the World's Nursing Report - 2020

World Health Organisation | 6 April 2020.

The State of the world's nursing 2020 report provides the latest, most up-to-date evidence on and policy options for the global nursing workforce. It also presents a compelling case for considerable – yet feasible – investment in nursing education, jobs, and leadership.

EQUINET Information sheet 2 on COVID-19

EQUINET | 1 April 2020.

This is the second information brief from EQUINET to summarise and provides links to official, scientific and other resources as of March 30 2020 to support an understanding of and individual to regional level responses to COVID-19. This brief complements and does not substitute information from your public health authorities. This brief covers: 1: Developments in the COVID-19 epidemic 2: The health system response 3: Policy, politics and rights 4: Support for and in different communities 5: The macro-economic challenges 6: What does this all mean for equity?

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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.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Request for proposals: 24-hour helpdesk, National Health Research Database (NHRD)

Closing Date: 23 April 2020

Call for expressions of interest: design and layout agencies, South African Health Review (SAHR)

Closing Date: 8 May 2020

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