Health systems recovery after COVID-19

South Africa’s health systems strengthening efforts in pursuit of universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals have been greatly hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. As first responders to the country’s epidemic, healthcare workers found themselves facing a wide-range of challenges that had a negative impact on both their ability to provide care and their mental health and well-being. Access to health care for chronic conditions, services for sexual and reproductive health, as well as testing, starting treatment, and continuity of care for HIV and TB, have all been compromised. As South Africa rebuilds its health system and transitions from the pandemic response to recovery, it is necessary to consider how to leverage our response to COVID-19 towards strengthening the health system for future pandemic preparedness.

The editorial team of the South African Health Review (SAHR) 2022 invites the submission of abstracts describing promising examples of response, mitigation, recovery and health systems strengthening strategies to rebuild the health system in wake of the country’s COVID-19 response.

Preference will be given to abstracts that consider:

- post-pandemic recovery strategies;
- COVID-19 impacts on progress towards universal health coverage and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
- the health impacts of COVID-19 on South Africa’s burden of disease and service delivery for chronic and communicable diseases; mental health conditions; occupational health; nutrition; cancers; maternal, women’s and child health; urban and rural health, and climate change;
- adopting a whole-of-society and community-based approach to finding more sustainable and cost-effective methods of service delivery;
- lessons from COVID-19 for pandemic preparedness and South Africa’s health system; and
- addressing pre-existing socio-economic and health inequities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations.

Please take note of the following:

- Abstracts should be submitted to: sahr@hst.org.za
- The body of the abstract may not exceed 350 words.
- Abstracts must clearly show the name, affiliations and contact details (e-mail and phone number) of the corresponding author.
- Guidelines for authors are accessible at www.hst.org.za and strict adherence to these guidelines is essential.
- Submission of an abstract for the SAHR does not guarantee acceptance. All abstracts will undergo a systematic peer-review selection process.

For more information visit: www.hst.org.za or contact sahr@hst.org.za

Deadline for abstract submissions: 26 August 2022

The South African Health Review is a peer-reviewed publication accredited with the Department of Higher Education and Training. The aims of the SAHR are to advance the sharing of the knowledge, feature critical commentary on policy implementation, and offer empirical studies for improving South Africa’s health system.