



Limited Regulations for the Next 3 Months

As you will remember, on 5th April we sent out a communique regarding our president's [announcement](#) that our National State of Disaster would be terminated as of 4 April. It was also explained that after 30 days (4 May) all regulations would lapse and that the pandemic would be managed in terms of the *National Health Act*.

Yesterday, 4th May, Minister Joe Phaahla gave a [public announcement](#) that the **public consultation period for health regulations has been extended**.

What Does this Mean for Us?

In order to ensure that there is no gap in terms of legal instruments to contain the spread of COVID-19 and future notifiable medical conditions, the department has gazetted the **limited regulations for implementation** with effect from Thursday, 05 May 2022.

What are the Limited Regulations?

1. We are required to wear a face mask in an indoor public space, this includes wearing a mask on public transport. (Note: a mask is not required outdoors.)
2. The existing restrictions on gatherings will continue as a transitional measure. As previously explained, there are two options:
 - a. 50% capacity of the venue provided that proof of vaccine, or COVID test not older than 72 hours, is required for entrance to the venue.

OR

- b. Where there is no provision for proof of vaccination or a COVID test, then the current upper limit of 1000 people indoors and 2000 people outdoors will remain.

3. Regulations in respect to international travel can be [read here](#).

All other disaster regulations have fallen away as of midnight, 4 April 2022.

Living with COVID-19

The Department would like to remind people that, despite the current process to source public comments on the health regulations, there is still an imperative to provide options to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and other notifiable medical conditions without invoking the state of national disaster.

Therefore, members of the public are reminded that COVID-19 remains a life-threatening disease, and the country is not yet out of the woods.

The only way we can protect ourselves and our loved ones against this pandemic and the current rising number of positive cases, is through vaccination and adhering to preventative measures at all times.

Fully vaccinated people are urged to consider booster shots to increase their immunity.

Draft Health Regulations

Submission of Comments

The new closing date for submission of comments is 5th of July 2022.

Comments must be sent only to this e-mail: legalreviews@health.gov.za on or before the closing date.

Some Concerns

FOR-SA have indicated that there are some matters of concern in the proposed Act. In light of this, the REACH-SA National Office have submitted our denomination's comments & concerns to the Department of Health. [Click here to view our submitted comments](#).

For more information on what the concerns are, [please click here](#) to watch the recording of FORSA explanations. Or click here to read their [latest press release](#).