

# VETERINARY SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN

Dear Registrees,

I think we are all aware of the statement made last night by President Cyril Ramaphosa regarding the upcoming nation-wide lockdown for 21 days, which comes into effect from Thursday, 26 March 2020. This measure will not only have a considerable impact on people's livelihoods and on the life of society, but also on the lives of veterinarians and para-veterinarians as providers of veterinary services that are very critical for our country.

We as Council have in the recent past made significant contributions and submissions to the Ministerial Task team that is working on, amongst other matters, a proposition to consider declaring veterinary services an essential service. Council presented motivations and strong arguments in support of that possible declaration. From what we gather, there are currently 'war-room discussions' this morning at departmental level and we hope that by later today the Minister will make final pronouncements on these matters.

We will closely monitor the situation and keep you posted, as and when events develop.

Regards

Dr Alfred Kgasi

President: SAVC