



# B4SA COVID RESPONSE

## Health working group newsletter

ISSUE #4 | 24-30 April 2020

### Efforts to streamline export permits and ongoing gap mitigation



This week one of our main focuses has been **engaging with the DTI and ITAC on export permits**, particularly to neighbouring countries dependent on SA exports.

We continue to work with these bodies to identify process improvement opportunities.

Ongoing work has been done to close public sector medicine gaps, including **28 additional gaps having been closed in the last week.**

In this issue we also provide details on the PPE procurement process being run by B4SA, and how suppliers can participate.

### This week at a glance

**28** additional medicines gaps addressed

**281** suppliers approved through new B4SA PPE portal

PPE order book almost **ZAR 1bn:**

**13.5 million** N95 masks

**11.25 million** surgical masks for healthcare workers

**19.5 million** surgical masks for patients

**900 000** sterile gloves

**20 000** face shields

**100 000** gowns

**345 000** sanitizers (950ml bottles)

**200** ventilators

### Request for responsible titration



Please note that as we publish and mitigate potential gaps, we request the market to act appropriately and responsibly – especially through **responsible order placement and titration**, from both manufacturers and downstream actors, to ensure equitable patient access throughout the coming months.

### Charter air freight opportunities



B4SA medicines stream is aware of **charter air cargo flights scheduled out of Europe, China, and India** operated by local logistics providers, and would be able to share details to interested parties.

If you would like further details, please reach out to Nicola Brink ([nicola@selfcareassociation.co.za](mailto:nicola@selfcareassociation.co.za)).

# Mitigating medicines gaps

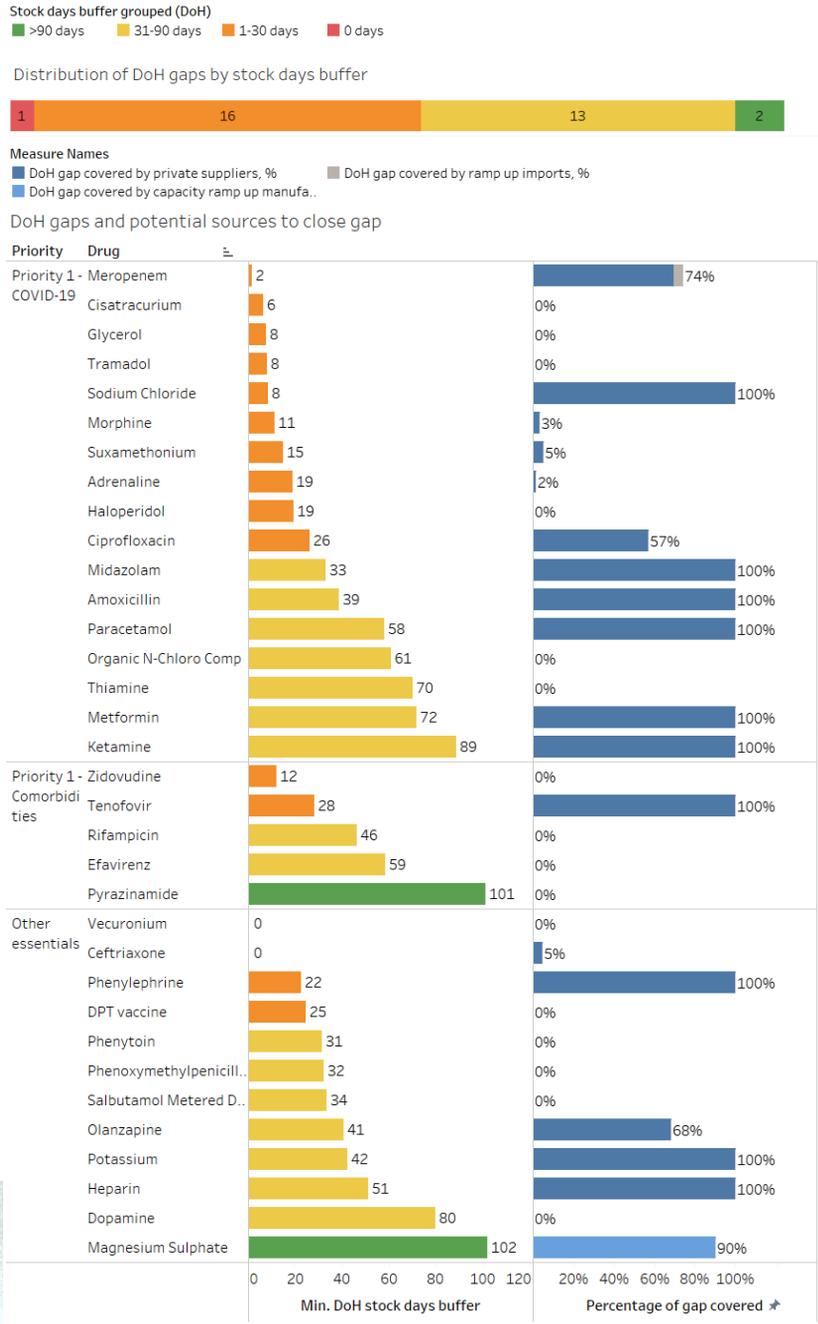
In the updated dashboard, there are **49 SKUs (34 molecules)** identified as having gaps in the public sector.

Please note that a gap is *forecasted* demand which contracted suppliers may not be able to cover – it does not necessarily imply an existing shortage today.

Addressing these gaps falls into three archetypes, which we are exploring in order –

- 1 Identify opportunities for existing surplus supply to be found in private markets to be channeled to the NDoH
- 2 Identify ramp-up opportunities (manufacturing or registered importation) to cover gaps
- 3 Identify alternative global sourcing opportunities, potentially through Section 21

Whilst we continue to address public sector stockpiling gaps, we will soon be in a position to identify and mitigate private sector gaps with relevant stakeholders.



# PPE portal goes live!

Our goal is to secure enough PPE, medical equipment, and sanitiser for all frontline healthcare workers, in both the public and private sectors.

We are pleased to share that the PPE supplier portal went live on 14 April. More than 1500 new suppliers signed up on 16 April and after the initial spike, we've seen a steady growth of just under 200 new suppliers each day.

We follow a two-step verification approach for these suppliers, with more details available on our [website](#):

- **Company verification:** check supplier's tax compliance, BBBEE level, and general company information.
- **Product verification:** check and authenticate product certificates, testing reports, and general quality assurance documentation related to the product

To efficiently verify the large volume of suppliers and products, we need to focus our efforts. We therefore prioritise local suppliers who are members of recognised associations and/or SAHPRA medical device license holders. Non-members are still eligible as suppliers, but may take a little longer to accredit.

Once a company has been approved, it can be selected to supply PPE, medical equipment and sanitiser to all the healthcare workers in the country.

PPE Portal address:

<https://covid19manager.co.za/>

PPE Procurement Funders:

To date, close to R1 billion has been spent on procuring PPE for South Africa, underpinned by substantial funding from the Solidarity Fund, with additional funding from Naspers, the Motsepe Foundation and FirstRand's SPIRE Fund.

## Portal in numbers

**2508** suppliers registered on the portal

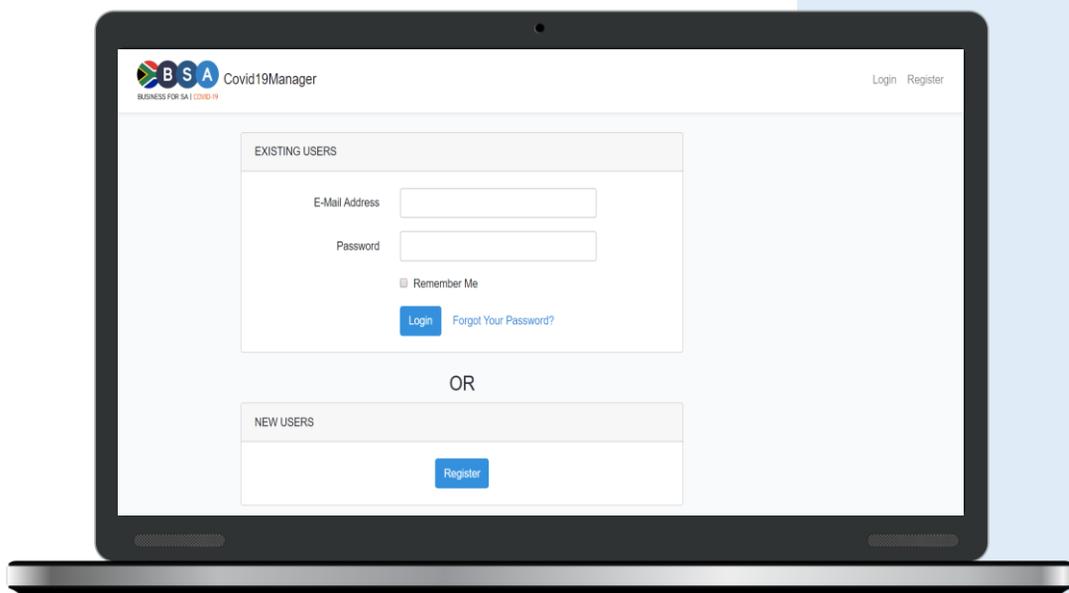
**1007** in progress for approval

**281** approved

**106** conditionally approved

**>1000** suppliers processed in last 2 days

**>20** full time resources dedicated to vetting and approval



# Update on export permits

We have had ongoing discussions this week with ITAC, the DTI, the NDoH, and SAHPRA regarding the export permit application and issuance process. We continue to work with these stakeholders to **identify opportunities to expedite the process**, especially for neighbouring country exports.

The DTI has informed us that **critical neighbouring country permits will be prioritized** as per a ministerial directive,

given these countries' dependence on these products in many cases.

We have highlighted opportunities for the process to be expedited and will continue to provide feedback on how DTI and ITAC are looking to improve the process.

## Rebates for VAT and duties



B4SA would like to make industry aware that SARS and ITAC have launched processes to **apply for rebates on customs duties and VAT** for qualifying goods in the COVID-19 crisis. Further details can be found on ITAC's [COVID-19 portal](#), as well as their [FAQs](#).

ITAC is handling the applications for customs duties exemptions, and has its own list of essential goods for which these exemptions apply. SARS is handling the VAT exemptions on its own list of essential goods.

# B4SA PPE orders continue to arrive in SA



On Thursday, the B4SA PPE procurement team received a significant order of **2 million surgical masks, and 216 000 KN95s**. A further order of 748 000 KN95s and 550 000 surgical masks is arriving in the country on Sunday.

## Solidarity Fund Procurement System goes LIVE



This week the Solidarity Fund's new **procure-to-pay system**, designed and implemented by FirstRand on behalf of the Solidarity Fund, went live. This system is set up to facilitate an approval workflow and will **facilitate and streamline the procurement and payment functions**. All new transactions are now being processed via the system.



## Medical Equipment Priorities



The Medical Equipment team, led by Emma Knox of GSK, is one of 7 workstreams in the B4SA Health Workgroup.

Medical Equipment workstream's key priorities include:

- Securing and assessing current and ongoing **stock availability**
- Creation of a dashboard to **map supply against demand**
- Consolidation and ordering and **logistics of critical stocks**
- Demand-side **order management**