

S.Africa Covid cases at highest level in months

April 22 2022



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South Africa is witnessing a "worrying" spike in coronavirus cases after a relative lull in new infections, official data showed Friday.

Daily official updates released by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) on Friday showed 4,631 infections had been detected in the past 24 hours.

This is the highest number registered for almost three jumps, and a jump from an average daily of around 1,300 infections recorded last week.

Health Minister Joe Phaahla told parliament earlier Friday that the rise in infections was "worrying".

"Over the last few days we have seen worrying signs of the rise in the level of COVID infections. We hope that this will not go much higher, but we are monitoring," he said.

"We hope that even if there is rise, it will not be disruptive".

More than half of the new cases reported Friday were found in the most populous province, Gauteng, where Johannesburg is situated.

Flood-hit KwaZulu-Natal province recorded the second highest number, accounting for 22 percent of the latest cases.

With a total number of laboratory-confirmed cases of more than 3,7 million, COVID has hit South Africa harder than any other country on the continent.

NICD [executive director](#), Adrian Puren said the Omicron variant is still the dominant circulating variant.

Only one COVID death was recorded on Friday.

Early in March South Africa registered zero COVID deaths, for the first time since May 2020.

Scientists have predicted a new wave will hit the country in May as the southern hemisphere winter season starts to set in.

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