

Mining sector's 10-point plan for coronavirus

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy says it has developed a 10-point plan for the mining sector to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, in line with the Department of Health and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) guidelines.



Gwede Mantashe, minister of minerals and energy

There are no cases of the disease in the mining sector, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, told the leadership of the Minerals Council in Johannesburg.

“The department’s health and safety inspectorate, working together with the mining companies and labour unions in the sector, are on high alert, and are testing the sector’s level of preparedness, with a focus on preventative control and managing any emerging risks for employees and communities in which mines operate.

“Work in the industry began over a month ago after the World Health Organisation announced the outbreak with a focus on preventative control, and managing any emerging risks,” said the department.

It will continue to engage with the sector on, among other things, the use of their medical facilities for the broader communities around mining operations, as well as the use of any safe and unoccupied housing facilities for quarantine, should the need arise.

The minister said: “Working together we have made great strides on the health and safety front in the sector. We are confident that our continued partnership to proactively manage the humanitarian and economic impact of this pandemic on the sector, will go a long way.”