

Curfew, booze, beach ban eased

A number of Covid-19 restrictions under adjusted level 3 have been eased following a decline in the number of positive cases, hospital admission and deaths, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on 1 February.

The average rate of new infections has been steadily coming down over the last three weeks, indicating that the country has now passed the peak of the second wave.



President Cyril Ramaphosa. Image: sanews.gov.za

“We are acutely aware that these restrictions have negatively affected businesses and threatened jobs in the hospitality, tourism and related industries.

“That is why we are determined that such restrictions should not continue any longer than is absolutely necessary to contain the pandemic and minimise the loss of life,” he said.

Hours of curfew

The hours of the curfew will now be from 11pm to 4am. Establishments will need to close by 10pm to allow their customers and staff to return home by curfew.

“ President [@CyrilRamaphosa](#): The hours of the # curfew will now be from 11pm to 4am. Establishments will need to close by 10pm to allow their customers and staff to return home by curfew. pic.twitter.com/5c6g6Uu4S8— Presidency | South Africa 🇿🇦 (@PresidencyZA) [February 1, 2021](#) ”

“Faith-based gatherings will be permitted, subject to health protocols. Such gatherings may not exceed 50 people for indoor venues and 100 persons for outdoor venues,” Ramaphosa said.

Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used.

Public places such as beaches, dams, rivers, parks and public swimming pools will be reopened subject to health protocols.

Drink responsibly

The sale of alcohol by licensed premises for off-site consumption will be permitted from Mondays to Thursdays, from 10am to 6pm.

“Duty-free shops, registered wineries, wine farms, micro-breweries and micro-distilleries will be able to sell alcohol for off-site consumption during their normal licensed operating hours. The sale of alcohol by licensed premises for on-site consumption – such as restaurants and taverns – will be permitted throughout the week from 10am to 10pm,” the president said.

“ President [@CyrilRamaphosa](#): Restrictions on the sale of alcohol will be eased. The sale of alcohol by licensed premises for off-site consumption will be permitted from Mondays to Thursdays, from 10am to 6pm. pic.twitter.com/Ln2xBTctID— Presidency | South Africa 🇿🇦 (@PresidencyZA) [February 1, 2021](#) ”

Several restrictions remain in place

As there is still a continued high risk of transmission, several prevention measures will remain in place.

“Social gatherings, political events, traditional council meetings and gatherings at sports grounds will not be permitted. This does not include religious gatherings and funerals and other limited exceptions as detailed in the regulations, such as restaurants, museums and gyms,” the president said.

“ President [@CyrilRamaphosa](#): Faith-based gatherings will be permitted, subject to health protocols. pic.twitter.com/oGXTeUCFKG— Presidency | South Africa 🇿🇦 (@PresidencyZA) [February 1, 2021](#) ”

Funerals may not be attended by more than 50 people, and there needs to be social distancing, hand sanitising and mask wearing.

“It remains compulsory for every person to wear a mask in a public space,” Ramaphosa said.

He encouraged people who discover that they have been exposed to the virus or are Covid-19 positive to isolate at home away from other members of the household or, if this is not possible, go to a government quarantine site.

“Being in crowded places or spending time in closed, unventilated spaces dramatically increases the risk of contracting the virus. For this reason, you must avoid indoor spaces wherever possible and open windows to limit the spread of the virus through the air.

“Research has shown that the risk of transmission of the virus is almost 20 times higher indoors than in outdoor settings,”

he said.

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