



Corona Virus update March 2020

Dear Member

Following the National Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize's confirmation of the cases of COVID-19 in South Africa, we would like to inform you that Bonitas Medical Fund do provide benefits for illnesses related to the COVID-19 infection. Bonitas Medical Fund also confirms readiness of all hospital groups that we are in partnership with, in investigating and managing COVID-19 infections (especially around awareness of the necessary COVID-19 protocols).

The benefit cover by Bonitas Medical Fund for COVID-19 includes:

- Diagnostic testing according to agreed protocols
- Consultations with healthcare professionals
- Defined supportive treatment and medicines

While your doctor should be able to collect specimens for testing, members are advised that only the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) currently does all the tests, and your doctor will confirm if you have to be tested and will contact the NICD to do the test.

Kindly note that only people classified as meeting the criteria of being a person under investigation (PUI) by NICD will be tested, for example you should have had contact with a confirmed case or a returning traveller from affected areas. In addition, Bonitas Medical Fund will pay for treatment in a hospital according to the Scheme benefits, according to the member's chosen health plan and according to the Scheme rules.

- Bonitas Medical Fund's cover for out-of-hospital treatment of COVID-19 starts when a test confirms that you or your dependents have the COVID-19 virus.
- Members who fall ill outside the outbreak period will be covered in terms of the scheme option benefits.

We also have assurance that all outbreak prevention and infection control measures are being followed in hospitals and at ports of entry. Therefore, COVID-19 virus is still well contained in South Africa, but if you believe you are at risk, our advice is to:

- Self-isolate immediately, and
- Book a consultation or phone your doctor.

We urge you to continue being vigilant in protecting yourself and others by doing the following:

1. Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
2. Practice respiratory hygiene, by covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze;
3. If possible postpone any unnecessary international travel to affected countries;
4. For members returning from affected countries, discuss your plans with your doctor on possibilities of self-quarantine (e.g. working from home for 14 days after return) and if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you need to get tested. If the test is negative, you should return to work after 72 hours.

Kind Regards
Bonitas Medical Fund