Trends in cases & estimated active cases

Estimated active cases for each day = cumulative infections in last 14 days minus deaths
SA’s epidemic trajectory – to 27 April
SA compared to countries with the most and least severe advanced epidemics

Diagram source: Tulio de Oliveira, Maria Schud & UKZN CoV Big Data Consortium
Can we continue interpreting changes from the daily case numbers? No!

- Previous approach of daily cases with cutoff levels as 45 to 89 was appropriate when the source and number of tests was not changing substantially
- The situation now is very different.....
  - We now need a different approach that is scientifically sound
More cases are expected each week – due to active case-finding

**Before 7 April**
With no house-to-house screening

Tests on patients at doctor’s rooms & hospitals (passive case-finding)

**Since 7 April**
With house-to-house screening

Tests on people from the community screening (active case-finding)
The source of samples in the public sector testing for SARS-CoV-2: passive case-finding vs active case-finding

Note: the total tests each week = sum of the number on each bar

Source of data: Kamy Chetty, NHLS
Proportion of NHLS tests from passive case-finding in healthcare settings that are positive (test positivity by week)

Source of data: Kamy Chetty, NHLS; * week is not complete
Proportion of NHLS tests from active case finding in community settings that are positive (test positivity by week)

![Chart showing test positivity by week for community screening and contact tracing](chart.png)

Source of data: Kamy Chetty, NHLS
Proportion of NHLS tests that are positive comparing passive and active testing (by week)

Source of data: Kamy Chetty, NHLS
As the lockdown comes to an end, expect a rise in cases & outbreaks...

**Unlikely scenario**
Delayed exponential curve

**Likely scenario**