Progress on COVID-19:
PRESENTATION TO EDITORS

Minister of Health South Africa

19th of May 2020

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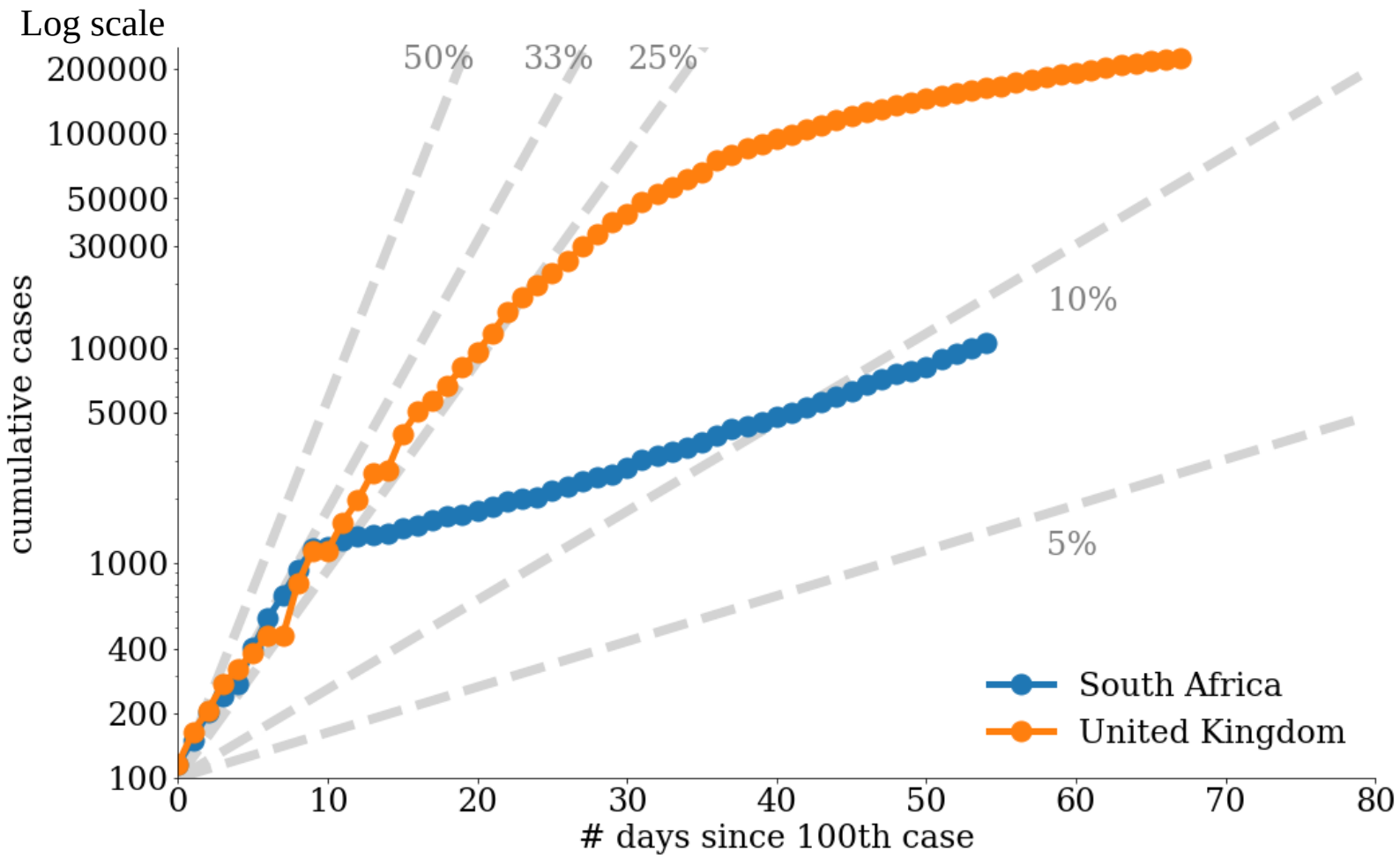
COVID-19: Global Situation

Based on WHO SITREP 117 with data as of 17th May

- As reported by the WHO, the spread of coronavirus continues to affect more countries, with an increase in the **total number of confirmed global cases** which is currently at **4 618 821** with **311 847 deaths** and a 6.8% case fatality rate.

Situational Report as of the 17th of May 2020					
	# of Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Cases	Increase in Confirmed cases over 24 hours	# of deaths	Increase in deaths over 24hours	Case Fatality Rate
Global	**4 618 821**	**93 324**	**311 847**	**4 452**	**6,8%**
African Region	61 163	2 500	1 748	38	2,9%
SADC Region	19 432	1 269	376	4	1,9%
Americas	2 017 811	50 879	121 609	2 810	6,0%
Eastern Mediterranean	338 560	11 992	9 979	138	2,9%
Europe	1 890 467	19 922	167 173	1 222	8,8%
South-East Asia	141 593	7 062	4 582	231	3,2%
Western Pacific	168 515	969	6 743	13	4,0%

SA's epidemic trajectory – to 11 May: SA compared to U.K.



Source: Tulio de Oliveira & Ilya Sinayskly &
UKZN CoV Big Data Consortium – 11 May 2020;

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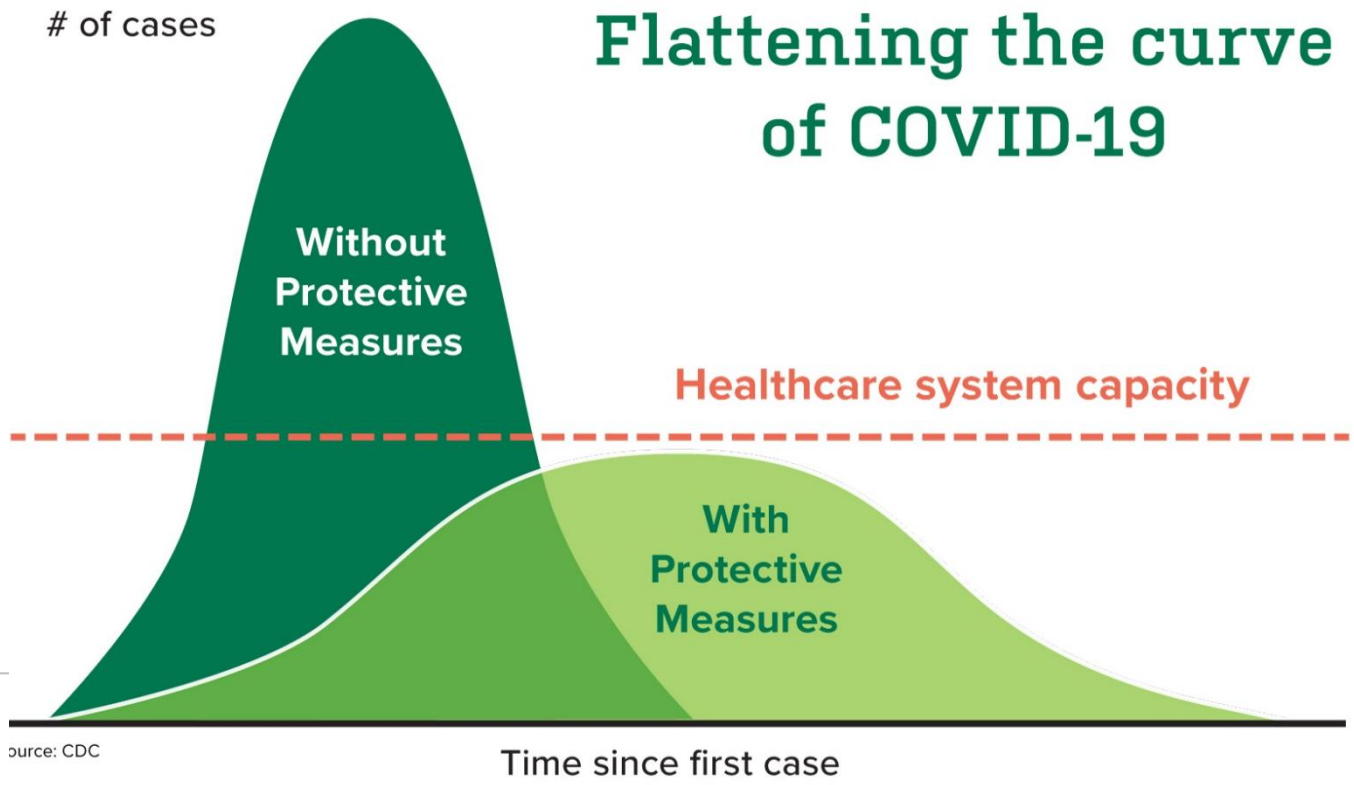
Primary goal of South African COVID-19 response is “flattening the curve”



COVID-19: African Region

Based on WHO SITREP 117 with data as of 15th May

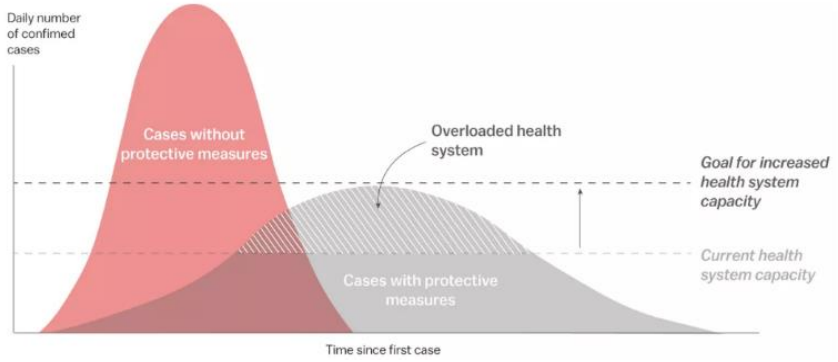
- Within Africa, **South Africa has the highest number of cases** followed by Egypt (11 228), Algeria (6 630), Ghana (5 638), and Nigeria (5 450); however, Egypt has the highest number of deaths at 592.
- Within the SADC region, South Africa has 79% of the total cases and 69% of the total deaths.

SADC Country	Total Confirmed Cases	% of Confirmed Cases	Deaths	% of Deaths	Case Fatality Rate
South Africa	13,524	79%	247	69%	1.8%
DRC	1,369	8%	60	17%	4.4%
Tanzania	509	3%	21	6%	4.1%
Mauritius	332	2%	10	3%	3.0%
Madagascar	238	1%	0	0%	0.0%
Zambia	668	4%	7	2%	1.0%
eSwatini	190	1%	2	1%	1.1%
Mozambique	119	1%	0	0%	0.0%
Malawi	63	0%	3	1%	4.8%
Angola	48	0%	2	1%	4.2%
Zimbabwe	42	0%	4	1%	9.5%
Botswana	24	0%	1	0%	4.2%
Namibia	16	0%	0	0%	0.0%
Seychelles	11	0%	0	0%	0.0%
Comores	11	0%	1	0%	9.1%
Lesotho	1	0%	0	0%	0.0%
Total	**17,164**		**358**		**2.1%**

What is flattening the curve?

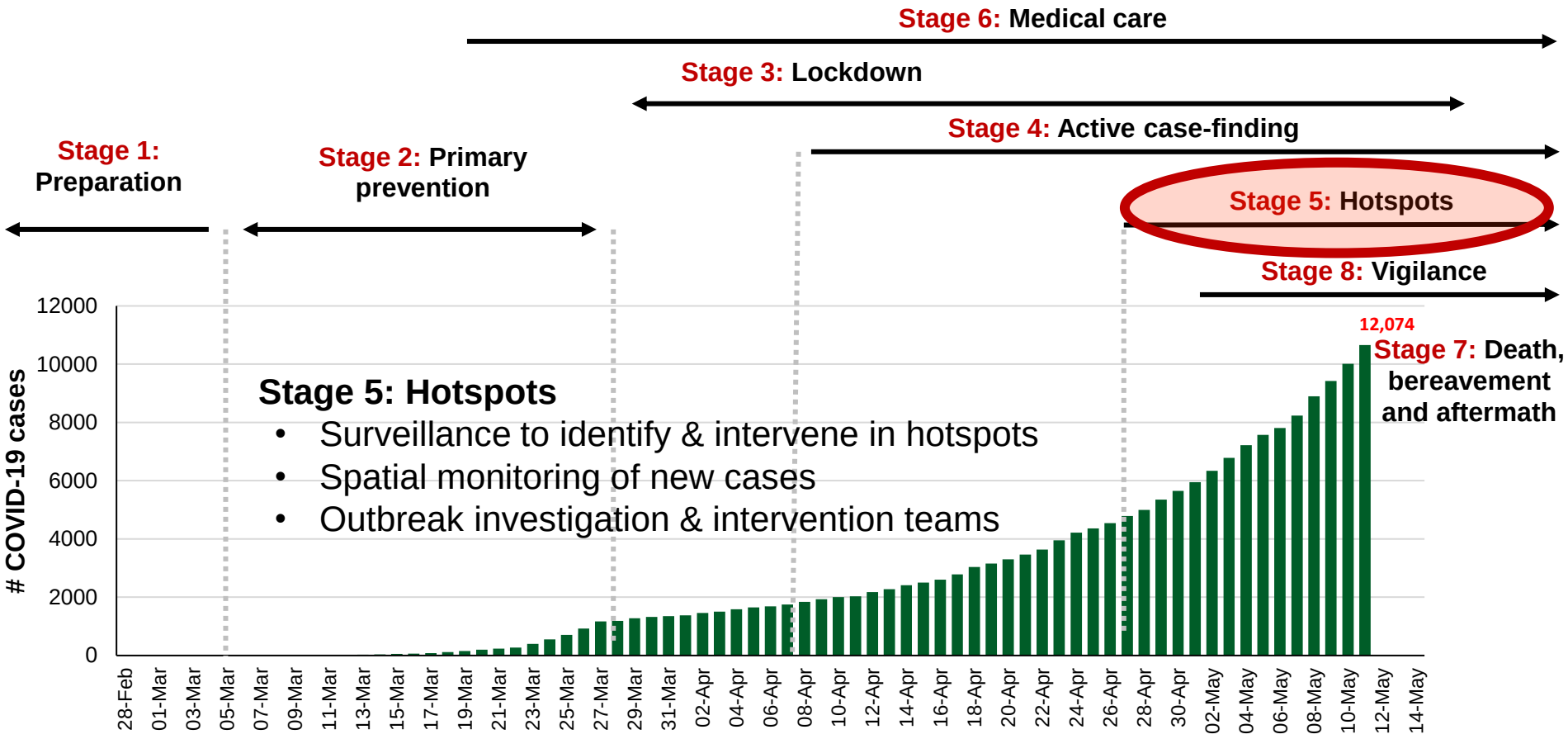
- Without natural immunity or a vaccine, everyone is at risk of the coronavirus infection ~ 1 in 5 sick patients may need hospital care
- Flattening is an ongoing process of reducing coronavirus spread over an extended period
- Reason for flattening the curve is to reduce rate of new infections so that the peak is lowered to a level where hospitals can cope with COVID-19 cases
- Reduces peak of massive surge of very sick COVID-19 patients that overwhelms healthcare provision
- Hospitals that are coping can provide better care for fewer deaths

1. Early is better - flattening the curve in advanced epidemics has been difficult to achieve, e.g., UK
2. To slow community transmission
3. Provide time to expand healthcare capacity, especially ICU and high-level care
4. Provide time to better prepare and equip hospitals healthcare workers
5. To provide time to scale up testing and prevention strategies



Approach to COVID-19 Response: Stages of South Africa's COVID-19 response

***** Please note that the stages are NOT SEQUENTIAL*****



Stage 5: Hotspots

- Surveillance to identify & intervene in hotspots
- Spatial monitoring of new cases
- Outbreak investigation & intervention teams

COVID 19: South Africa Epidemiology and Surveillance

Through and including cases and deaths through 16th of May

- In South Africa, the **total cumulative cases reported is 14 355**
- The **national case fatality rate**, based on deaths from is **1.8%**, with the **total number of deaths at 261**
- The **number of recoveries stands at 6,478 (45.1%)**

Province	Updated Cases Post Harmonisation 16 May 2020	New Cases 17 May 2020	Total Cases 17 May 2020	% Total Cases	Deaths 17 May 2020	Case Fatality Rate	Recoveries 17 May 2020
Western Cape	**7799**	**605**	**8404**	**58.5%**	**149**	**1.8%**	**3097**
Gauteng	**2210**	**52**	**2262**	**15.8%**	**25**	**1.1%**	**1583**
Eastern Cape	**1662**	**150**	**1812**	**12.6%**	**32**	**1.8%**	**746**
KwaZulu-Natal	**1481**	**17**	**1498**	**10.4%**	**45**	**3.0%**	**806**
Free State	151	2	153	1.1%	6	3.9%	108
Mpumalanga	67	1	68	0.5%	0	0.0%	49
North West	62	2	64	0.4%	1	1.6%	28
Limpopo	58	1	59	0.4%	3	5.1%	37
Northern Cape	34	1	35	0.2%	0	0.0%	24
Unknown	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Total	**13,524**	**831**	**14,355**		**261**	**1.8%**	**6,478**

COVID 19: South Africa Epidemiology and Surveillance

Through and including cases and deaths through 16th of May

439559	14355	6478	261	831
TESTS CONDUCTED	POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED	RECOVERIES	DEATHS	NEW CASES

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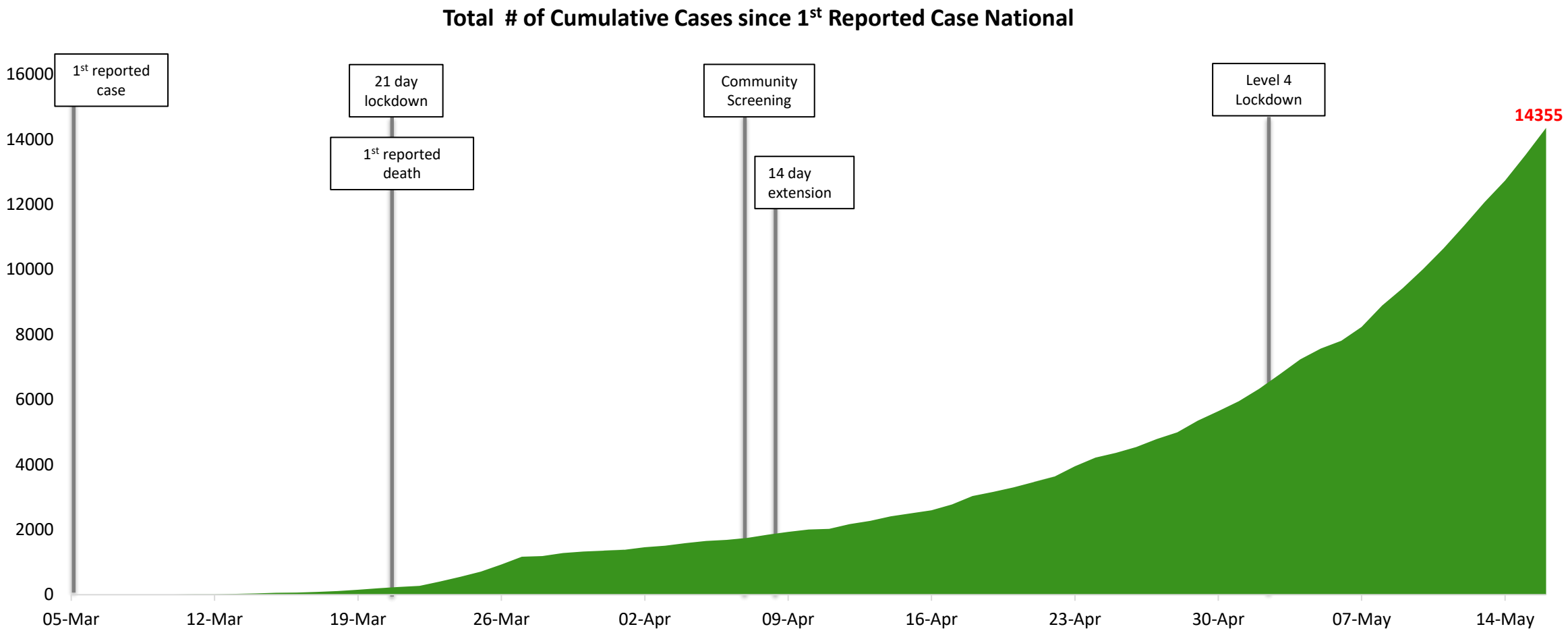
COVID-19 National: Cumulative Cases since 1st reported

Through and including cases and deaths through 16th of May



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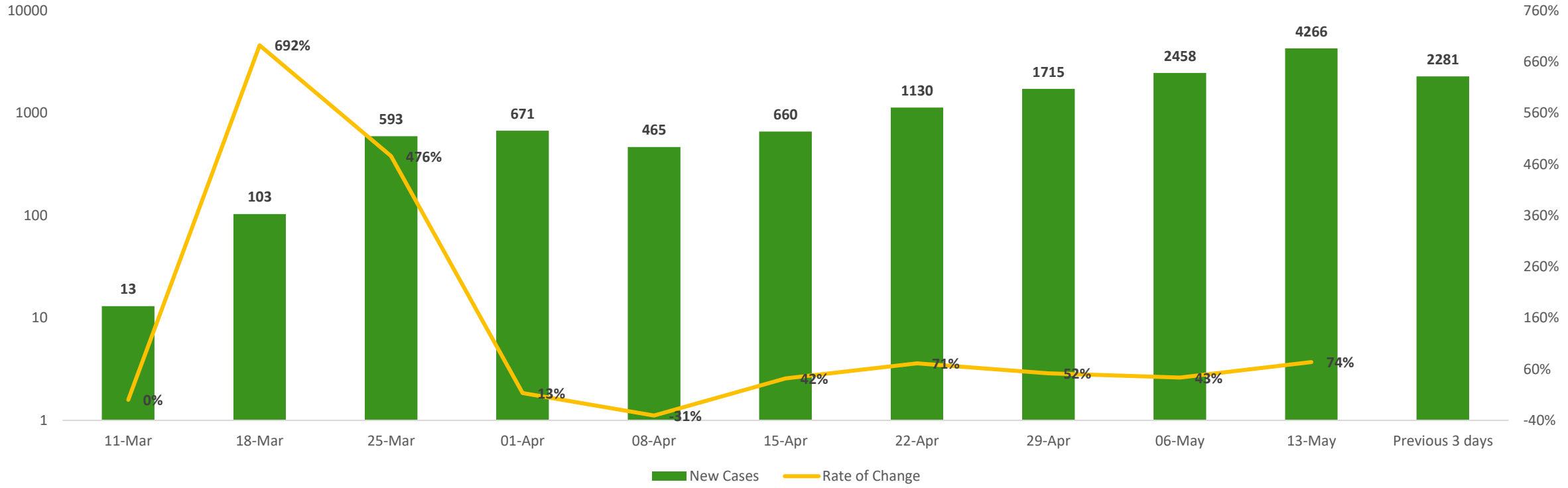
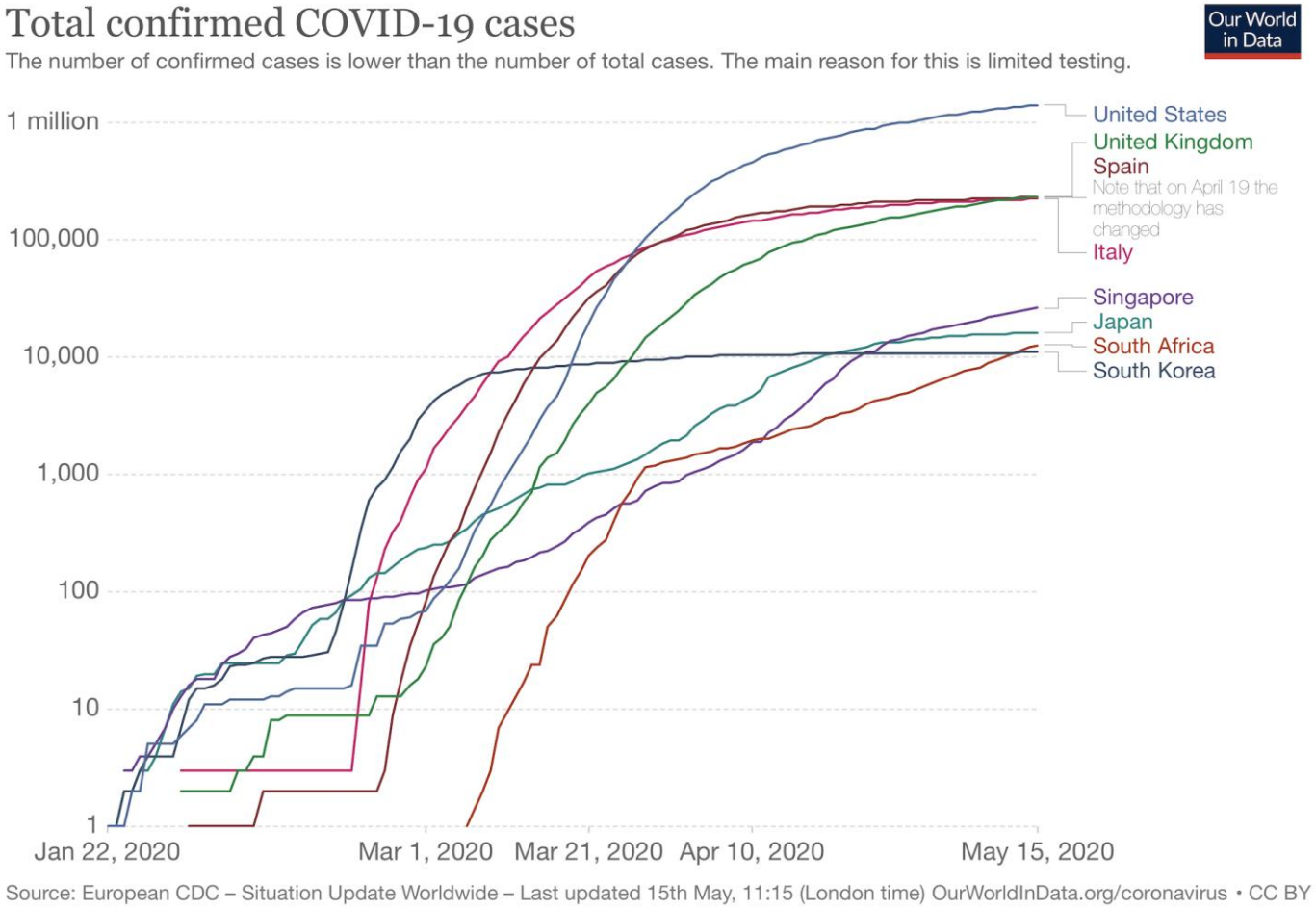
COVID-19 National: Weekly New Cases and Rate of Change since 1st Reported Case

Through and including cases and deaths through 16th of May

Total Number of New Cases per week since the 1st Reported Case as well as the Rate of change week on week



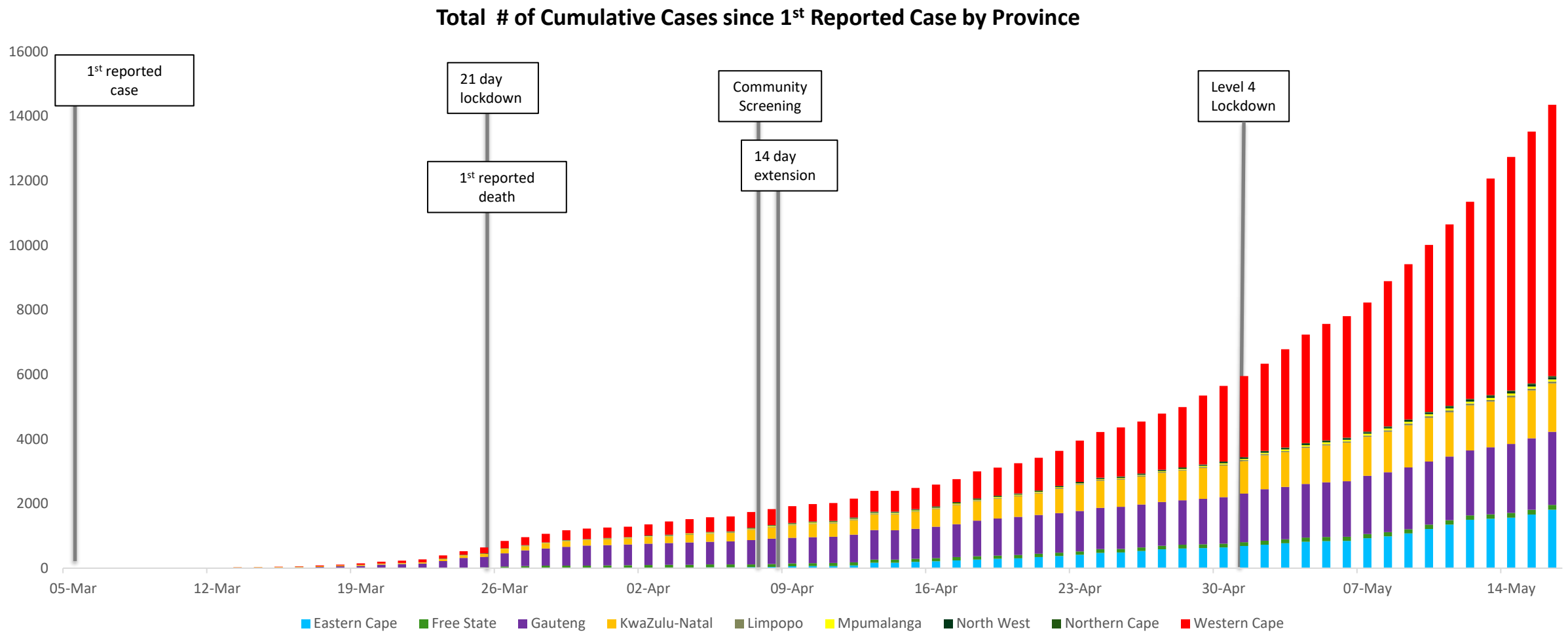
COVID-19: Global Comparison *Total Cases YTD*



- **YTD, United States, United Kingdom have the highest number of cases followed by Spain and Italy; note the daily new cases for these countries are beginning to flatten**
- **South Africa had the lowest number of cases but it recently surpassed South Korea but it still falls behind Japan and Singapore**

COVID-19 Provincial: Cumulative Cases since 1st reported

Through and including cases and deaths through 16th of May



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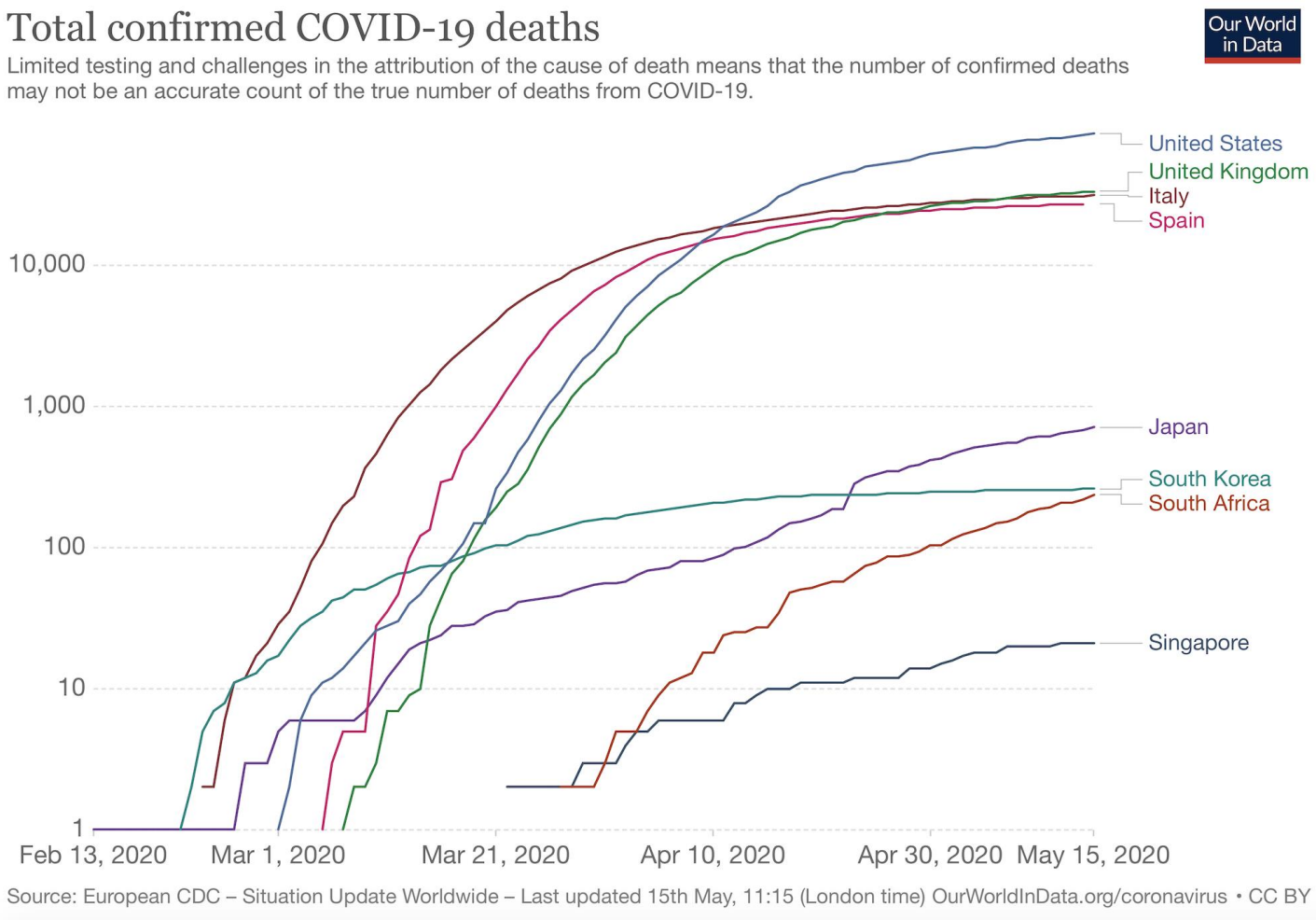
COVID-19: Global Comparison *Deaths YTD*



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- **YTD, United States followed by United Kingdom, Italy and Spain have the highest number of deaths and also the highest number of cases**
- **South Africa had the lowest number of cases but it surpassed Singapore in March but it still falls behind Japan and South Korea**

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COVID-19 National and Provincial: Laboratory Testing

Through and including testing through 15th May

All tests

Sector	Total tested		New tested	
Private	213172	48%	6391	35%
Public	226387	52%	11613	65%
Grand Total	**439 559**		**18 004**	

Community Screen and Test (CST)

Case-finding method	Total tested		New tested	
Community screen and test	106258	24%	5259	29%
Passive case-finding	333301	76%	12745	71%
Grand Total	**439 559**		**18 004**	

Province	Total Tests		*Total Test Positivity Rate*	New tests		*New Test Positivity Rate*
Eastern Cape	43447	9,9%	***4,4%***	2617	14,5%	***5,9%***
Free State	21338	4,9%	***0,9%***	709	3,9%	***0,3%***
Gauteng	145896	33,2%	***1,7%***	5592	31,1%	***0,9%***
KwaZulu-Natal	75691	17,2%	***2,3%***	2736	15,2%	***0,6%***
Limpopo	9749	2,2%	***0,6%***	445	2,5%	***0,2%***
Mpumalanga	13069	3,0%	***0,8%***	470	2,6%	***0,2%***
North West	7508	1,7%	***0,8%***	384	2,1%	***0,5%***
Northern Cape	4244	1,0%	***1,0%***	78	0,4%	***1,3%***
Western Cape	94799	21,6%	***9,2%***	4564	25,3%	***14,0%***
Unknown	23818	5,4%	***2,1%***	409	2,3%	***1,2%***
National	**439 559**		***3,6%***	**18 004**		***4,8%***

- A cumulative total of **439 559 tests have been conducted as of 15th May.**
- Of the total number of tests conducted, **18 004 new tests were performed** and of those 5 259 tests (29%) were from community screen and testing (CST).
- Of the new tests conducted, 11 613 (65%) have been in the public sector.

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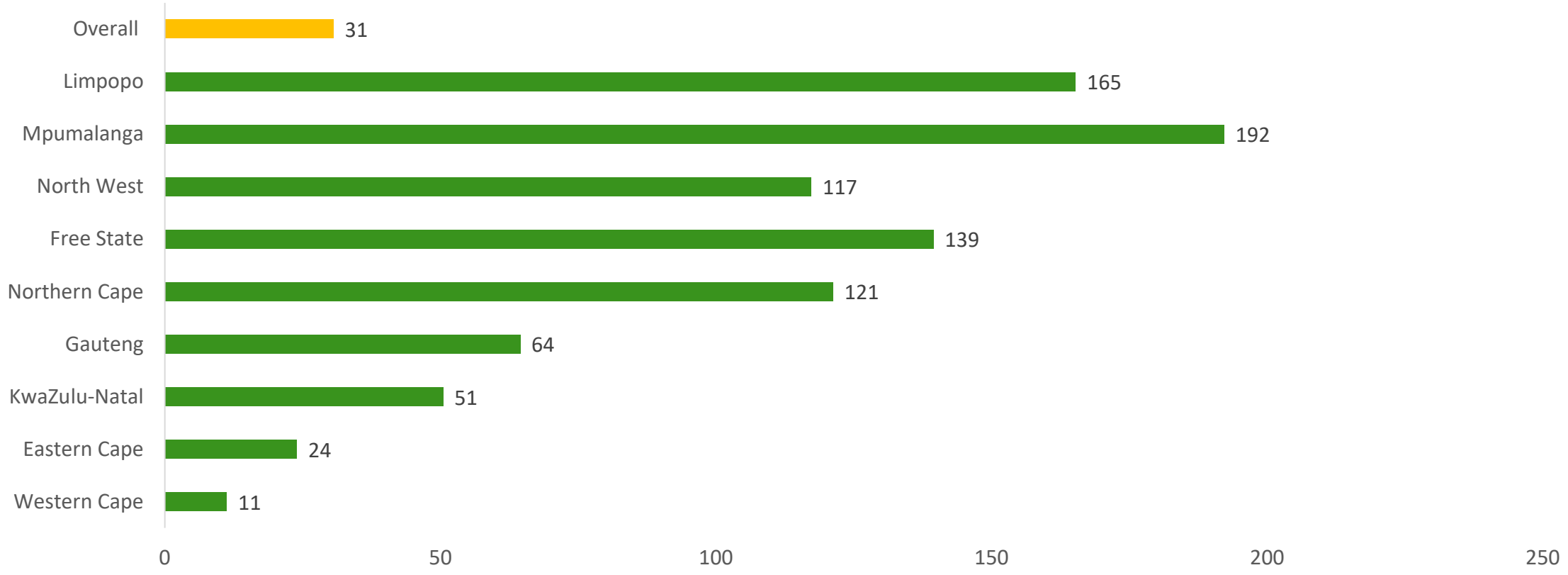
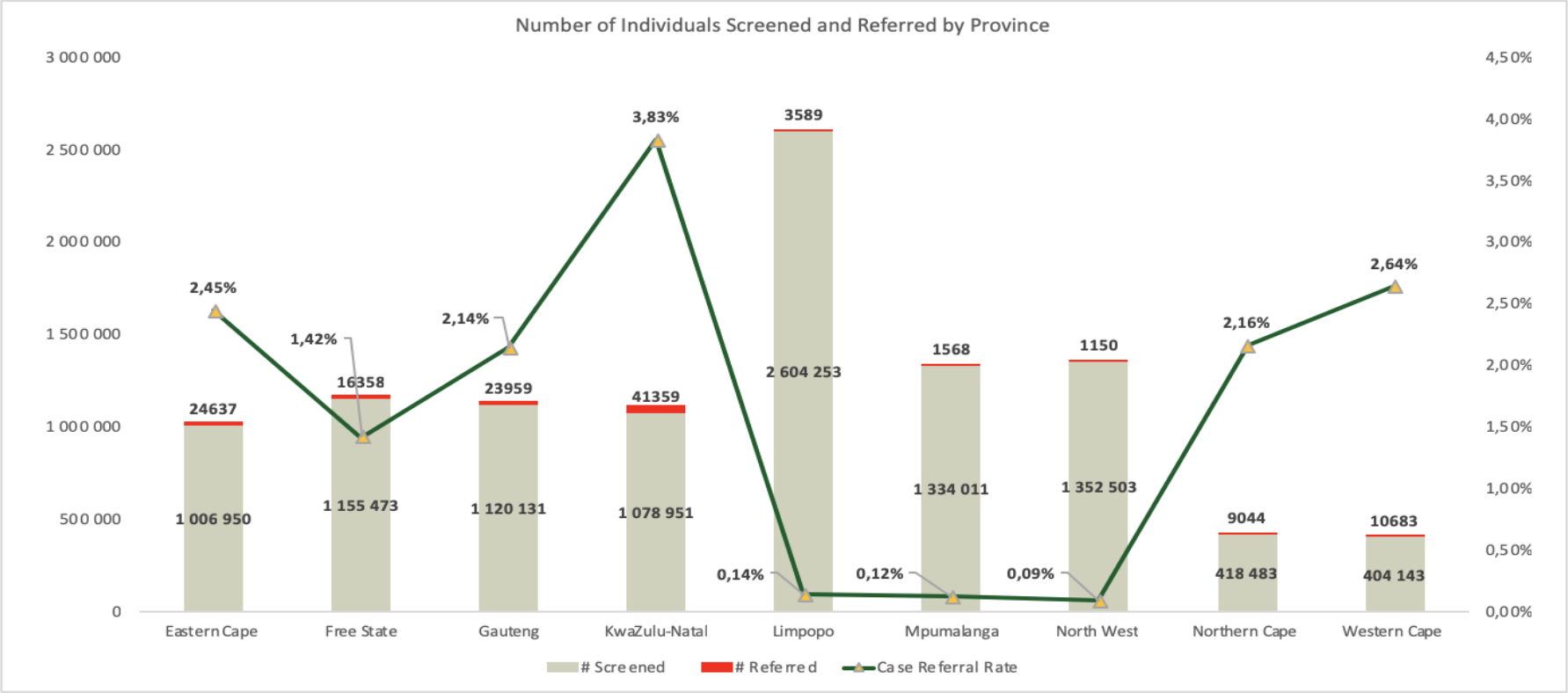
COVID-19: Number of tests performed to find Single Positive Case

Through and including testing through 15th May 2020



COVID-19: Community Screening

- As of 14th of May, **10 737 341** individuals have been **screened nationally** and **132 347** individuals have been **referred for testing**.

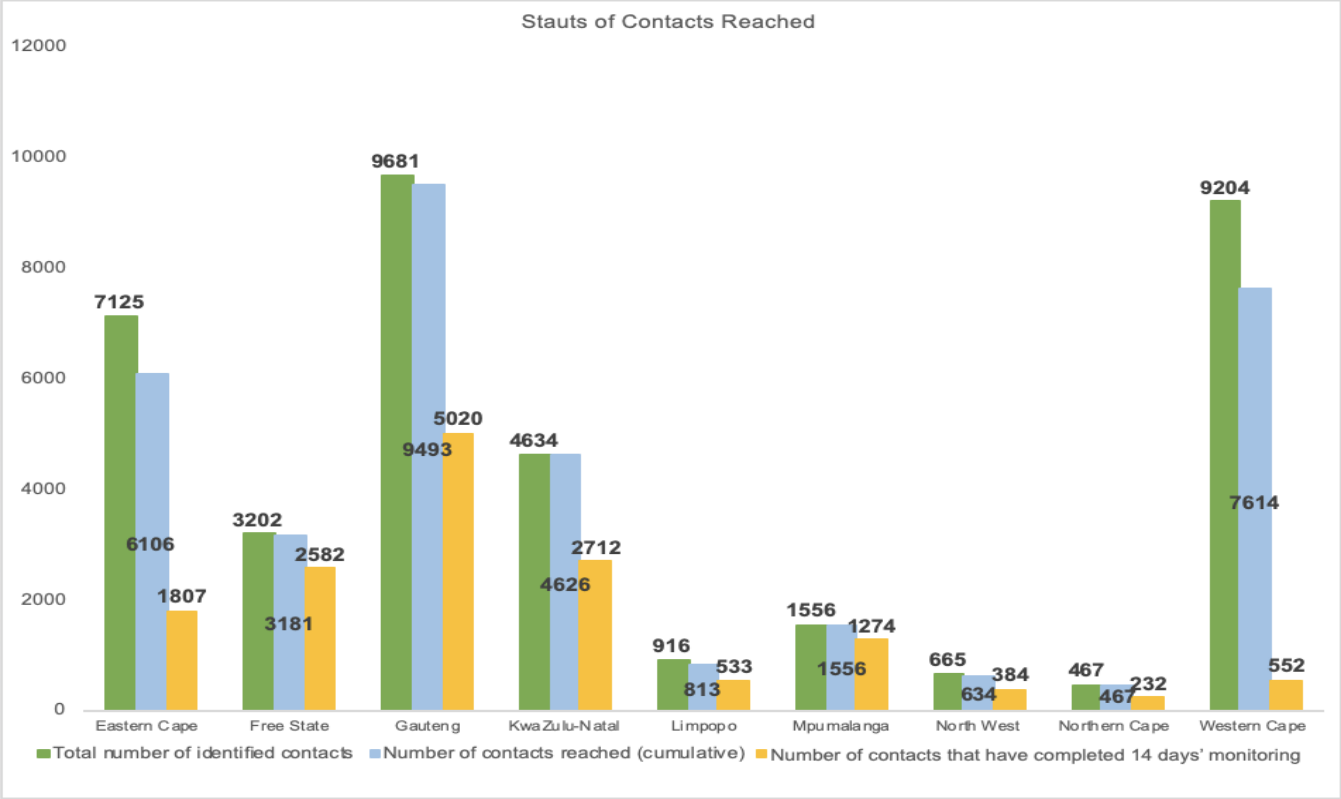


Province	Case Referral Rate
Eastern Cape	2,45%
Free State	1,42%
Gauteng	2,14%
KwaZulu-Natal	3,83%
Limpopo	0,14%
Mpumalanga	0,12%
North West	0,09%
Northern Cape	2,16%
Western Cape	2,64%
National	**1,23%**

	National Total
Screened	**10 737 341**
Referred	**132 347**

COVID-19: Contact Tracing

- As of the 15th of May, a total of **37 450 contacts have been identified** through contact tracing and **92% (34 490 / 37 450) of contacts have been monitored**



Province	% of Contacts Reached	% Completed 14 day monitoring
Eastern Cape	86%	25%
Free State	99%	81%
Gauteng	98%	52%
KwaZulu-Natal	100%	59%
Limpopo	89%	58%
Mpumalanga	100%	82%
North West	95%	58%
Northern Cape	100%	50%
Western Cape	83%	*
National	**92%**	**40%**

National # Identified	**37 450**
National Total Reached	**34 490**
National Total Not yet Reached	**2 960**
Total Complete 14 days monitoring	**15 096**

WHO Criteria for easing social distancing

	Criterion	Indicators to monitor progress
1.	Evidence should show that the COVID-19 transmission is controlled (strong surveillance in place and a consistent decline in the number of COVID-19 positive cases).	• Weekly rate of change in the number of positive cases per district • Weekly rate of change in percent active positive cases per 100 000 population per district
2.	Public health and health system capacities need to be in place to identify, isolate, test, treat and quarantine every case and trace every contact.	• Percent of contacts traced from those identified, per district • Bed availability meets estimated need based on burden of infection in each district
3.	Outbreak risks need to be minimized in high-vulnerability settings, particularly in homes for older people, mental health facilities and crowded places of residence.	• Weekly rate of change in the number of positive cases reported from prisons, public mental health facilities and old age homes
4.	Workplace and school preventive measures are established, including physical distancing, handwashing facilities and respiratory etiquette.	• Weekly rate of change in the number of workplaces with employees infected per district
5.	Importation risks must be managed.	• Percent of people from high risk countries entering the country through ports of entry screened for COVID-19
6.	Communities must be fully educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the new norm (participating in the transition out of lockdown).	• Number of people reached through above the line communication each week on issues related to COVID-19 • Number of people self-screening using mobile devices per district per week

EPI Hotpots: Active Cases Average 2nd May to 8th May

#	Province	District	Avg Actives May 2 to May 8	Number of Actives per 100k Pop (Avg May 2 to May 8)
22	Free State	fs Lejweleputswa District Municipality	0	0.000
41	Limpopo	lp Vhembe District Municipality	0	0.000
11	Northern Cape	nc John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality	0	0.000
8	Northern Cape	nc Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	0	0.000
51	North West	nw Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipalit	0	0.000
6	Western Cape	wc Central Karoo District Municipality	0	0.000
40	Limpopo	lp Mopani District Municipality	1	0.046
39	Limpopo	lp Sekhukhune District Municipality	1	0.057
50	North West	nw Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality	1	0.104
31	KwaZulu Natal	kz Harry Gwala District Municipality	1	0.111
20	Free State	fs Xhariep District Municipality	0	0.142
23	Free State	fs Fezile Dabi District Municipality	1	0.180
37	Mpumalanga	mp Nkangala District Municipality	3	0.211
24	Free State	fs Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality	2	0.213
30	KwaZulu Natal	kz Zululand District Municipality	2	0.227
34	KwaZulu Natal	kz Umzinyathi District Municipality	2	0.300
43	Limpopo	lp Waterberg District Municipality	2	0.336
9	Northern Cape	nc Zwelentlanga Fatman Mgcawu District Municipa	1	0.376
7	Northern Cape	nc Namakwa District Municipality	0	0.378
48	Gauteng	gp Sedibeng District Municipality	14	0.405
42	Limpopo	lp Capricorn District Municipality	6	0.424
52	North West	nw Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality	3	0.427
32	KwaZulu Natal	kz King Cetshwayo District Municipality	6	0.603
15	Eastern Cape	ec Amathole District Municipality	6	0.607
49	North West	nw Bojanala Platinum District Municipality	12	0.712
38	Mpumalanga	mp Ehlanzeni District Municipality	13	0.763
35	KwaZulu Natal	kz Amajuba District Municipality	6	0.942

#	Province	District	Avg Actives May 2 to May 8	Number of Actives per 100k Pop (Avg May 2 to May 8)
18	Eastern Cape	ec Joe Gqabi District Municipality	4	1.070
25	KwaZulu Natal	kz Ugu District Municipality	9	1.137
36	Mpumalanga	mp Gert Sibande District Municipality	15	1.204
19	Eastern Cape	ec Alfred Nzo District Municipality	11	1.297
33	KwaZulu Natal	kz Uthukela District Municipality	13	1.685
29	KwaZulu Natal	kz Umkhanyakude District Municipality	13	1.794
45	Gauteng	gp West Rand District Municipality	16	1.850
12	Eastern Cape	ec Sarah Baartman District Municipality	10	1.901
10	Northern Cape	nc Frances Baard District Municipality	7	1.947
4	Western Cape	wc West Coast District Municipality	11	2.257
21	Free State	fs Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality	20	2.512
17	Eastern Cape	ec Oliver Tambo District Municipality	39	2.619
28	KwaZulu Natal	kz uMgungundlovu District Municipality	34	2.902
44	Gauteng	gp City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality	122	4.181
2	Western Cape	wc Overberg District Municipality	13	4.315
5	Western Cape	wc Garden Route District Municipality	43	6.826
16	Eastern Cape	ec Chris Hani District Municipality	66	8.050
46	Gauteng	gp City of Johannesburg Metropolitan	296	8.223
47	Gauteng	gp Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality**	102	10.228
26	KwaZulu Natal	kz eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality	419	11.028
14	Eastern Cape	ec Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	98	11.307
3	Western Cape	wc Cape Winelands District Municipality	150	16.117
13	Eastern Cape	ec Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality	216	16.385
27	KwaZulu Natal	kz iLembe District Municipality	135	18.860
1	Western Cape	wc City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	2199	52.588

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Legend (Positive Cases per 100k pop)

- 0 to <0.5
- 0.5 to <1
- 1 to <5
- 5 to <10
- Greater than 10

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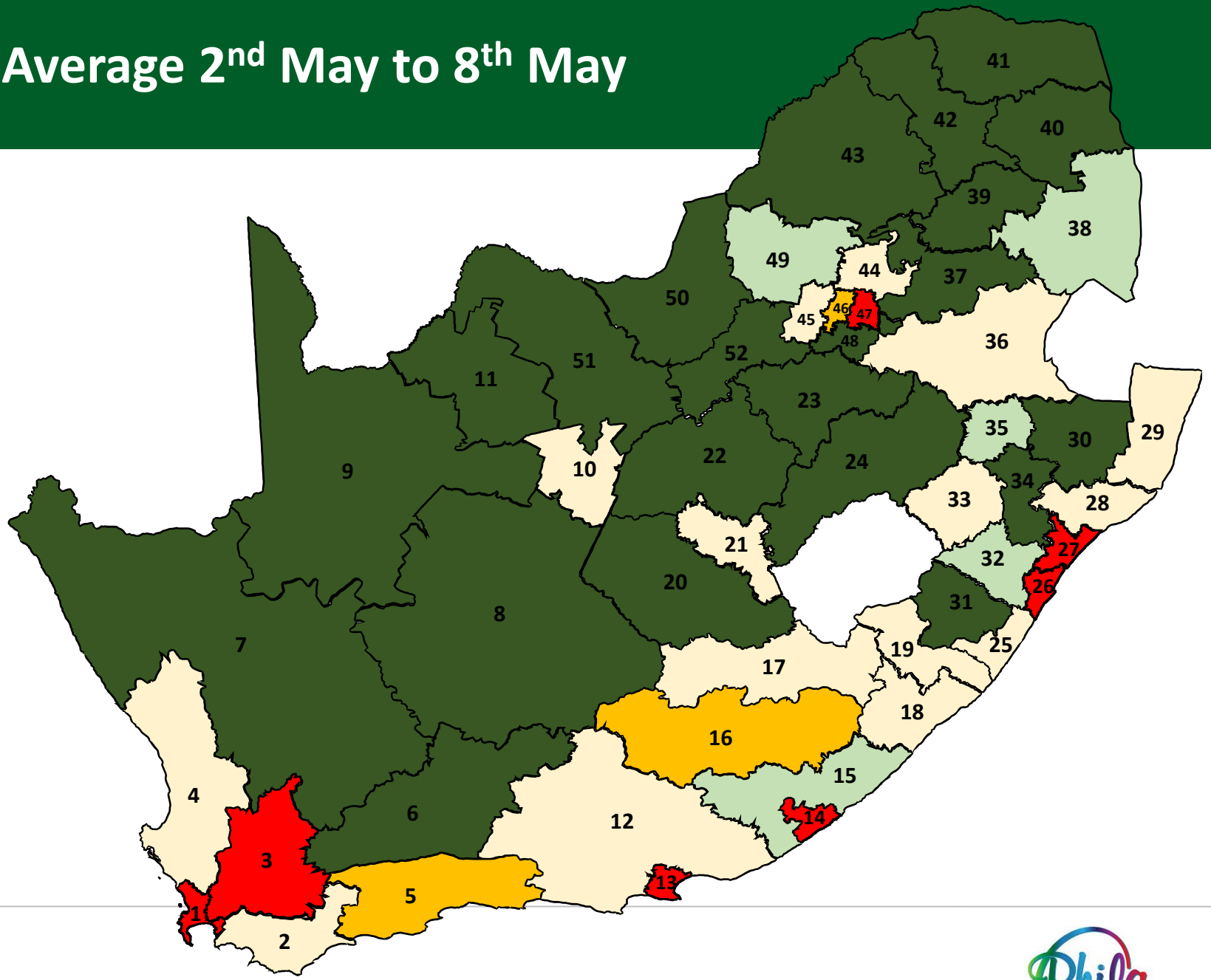
EPI Hotpots: Active Cases Average 2nd May to 8th May



Legend (Positive Cases per 100k pop)

- 0 to <0.5
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- 1 to <5
- 5 to <10
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Conclusions

- South Africa averted the exponential curve in March *(see UK slide above)*
- Flattening the curve has started successfully - needs to continue long-term (it is not a one-time event)
- Had time to improve testing, build health care capacity, e.g. field hospital construction is underway
- Testing coverage improving but supply chain challenges continue
- Community transmission has mostly remained low & is not increasing exponentially with the exception of Western Cape (& possibly Eastern Cape);
  - Note Western Cape has multiple outbreaks in some districts
- R*t* is hovering midway between 1 & 2 in Western Cape and Eastern Cape, but closer to 1 in the rest of South Afica (noting some variation)
- No room for complacency – case numbers will rise:
  - Expect outbreaks (flames)
  - Western Cape may be an early indication on how the epidemic will progress in other provinces over time
  - Shift focus to Hotspot identification and intervention
  - Fight flames to prevent raging fires