COVID-19 Stakeholder Information

The South African State President Cyril Ramaphosa, on Sunday the 15th March 2020, declared that the prevalence of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) is a national state of disaster. The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) has taken the following measures to minimise the risks of spreading the highly infectious respiratory disease COVID-19 as of the 18th March 2020:

1.) International Programmes and Projects
   - All international business air travel for staff is suspended until further notice.
   - International visitors to SAEON offices will have to contact us first to discuss the purpose of their visit. If approved, they will have to undergo compulsory testing for COVID-19 and only if the result is negative, will they be permitted to work at SAEON offices.

2.) Conferences and Meetings
   - Domestic travel including field trips will only be allowed for essential work and only after due assessment of the associated risks.
   - SAEON employees will not participate in physical gatherings of more than 20 people
   - Video conferencing will be the preferred mode of meetings.
   - Before entering our offices, all visitors will be required to sanitise their hands

At SAEON offices, employees are required and assisted to:

- Notify the manager immediately if they had contact with an international traveller or any person who is suspected or infected with COVID-19 (this includes those who have come into close contact with others who have been in close contact with known cases)

- Wash their hands regularly with soap and water and/or use hand sanitiser.

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue that they should dispose of immediately.

- Maintain 1m social distancing at all times

- Call NICD helpline on 0800 029 999 if they have symptoms and would like to find out more information on testing facilities.

- Call a medical doctor for an assessment and to take sick leave when prescribed.

- Obtain the manager’s approval for self-isolation, to re-schedule and to work remotely when required and realistic.