

# Coronavirus



Following the diagnosis of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in South Africa, we understand that people are concerned. During times like these, the last thing a person needs is to worry about whether one is covered. Suremed Health reaffirms that our clients are covered, protected and supported – aligned to their specific medical scheme option.

## 1. Coronavirus is covered:

Suremed Health will cover the cost of diagnosis and treatment for confirmed COVID-19 cases. We will cover private hospitalisation when a member with a confirmed diagnosis is symptomatic and requires hospitalisation in terms of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) protocols for COVID-19.

## 2. Treatment is aligned to WHO and NICD protocols:

South Africa is part of the WHO and we manage pandemics in line with international protocols. The NICD, that works closely with WHO, manages situations like this for our country. **This means that for any patient who is tested, the swab sample will need to be sent to the NICD-accredited laboratories.** Based on the results of those tests, **NICD will recommend the medical process for each patient, together with the treating doctor.** If the member is infected and presents as symptomatic, they may suggest isolation, most probably at the patient's home. However, the NICD has also established hospitals in each province to assist patients and manage the quarantine process. Suremed Health members may however use any private hospital that meets the requirements/protocols for quarantine and treatment, as published by the NICD.

## 3. Access to information:

**It is important to prevent and not believe misinformation.** The WHO and the NICD continue to provide valuable insight and updates regarding the virus and how it is spreading globally. Their dedicated websites are a great source of information, having taught us that **the main symptoms are fever, a dry cough and fatigue, often followed by muscle aches, nasal congestions and sore throats – very similar to flu symptoms.** Their data shows us that the majority of people around the world who have contracted the virus suffer mild conditions.

There are members who are a higher risk of contracting the virus and where the symptoms may be more severe. **Any person who has a compromised immune system, such as elderly people and people with chronic health conditions or lung problems, would be at a higher risk.**

## Follow these steps to minimise your chances of contracting coronavirus:



The first is to **regularly wash your hands.**



**Reconsider your travel arrangements,** especially to countries where outbreaks of the virus have been reported.



**Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth.**



**Seek out credible sources of information,** such as the **WHO**, as misinformation is more prevalent than ever before.

Suremed Health continues to monitor the situation in accordance with the guidelines as set out by The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and we will continue to keep you updated. We caution our clients and all South Africans against false information.