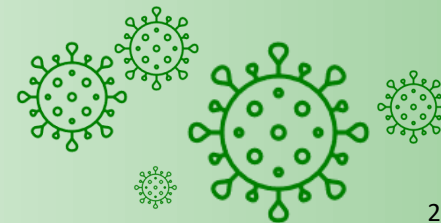




COVID CORNER

Exploring the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our lives



29 July 2022

COVID-19 impact on women

AUGUST IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

The pandemic's impact on women and girls:

The COVID-19 pandemic has harmed health, social and economic wellbeing worldwide, with women most severely effected. Not only do women make up almost 70% of the health care workforce (exposing them to greater risk of infection); they also shoulder most of the burden at home, face higher risks of job and income loss, and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis.

The negative effect on women's health:

COVID-19 disruptions to essential health services are still being felt around the world. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has found that 40% of African countries continue to face interrupted delivery of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. Maternal deaths in health facilities have increased, and the WHO expects the negative impact of COVID-19 on women and girls to be felt for several years to come.

The economic impact on South African women:

Before COVID, SA women were already more likely to be unemployed or in lower-paid jobs than men. COVID then had the most negative effects in sectors that rely on female labour. As a result, the pandemic has increased poverty for female-headed households more than 50% than male-headed households.

How do we address gender inequality?

Government support measures, including financial aid, can help women escape the poverty trap; also helping the next generation (their children) escape poverty. Access to affordable healthcare services is essential. Offering education and training to women and supporting certain sectors to hire more women would also help.

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) is an important part of protecting the human rights of women and girls. Both men and women are encouraged to report abuse to the toll-free number: 0800 428 428. There is also a domestic violence helpline: 0800 150 150.



Fast Facts

- COVID-19 has made life harder for South African women, with the pandemic harming health, social and economic wellbeing.
- Maternal deaths have increased. Poverty in women-headed households has intensified. Gender-based violence has also worsened.
- Report GBV on 0800 428 428 (or dial *120*7867# and they will call you back). Domestic abuse helpline: 0800 150 150.

Want to find out more?

COVID-19 toll on women's health:

<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/congo/news/covid-19-takes-heavy-toll-womens-health>

COVID-19 impact on South African women:

<https://theconversation.com/how-covid-19-has-made-life-harder-for-south-african-women-169705>

What should you do if you experience GBV in South Africa?

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/what-to-do-experience-gender-violence-south-africa/>

Ask Dr M

Do you still have questions?

Call us on

0800 24 36 72

or WhatsApp

082 735 4472



Protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 with the two Vs:



Vaccination



Ventilation

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