



**CENTRE FOR
TISSUE
ENGINEERING**

Dedicated to healing
through tissue
transplantation

CTE COVID-19 experience SATiBA

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Challenges

- ▶ Shortages of donors
- ▶ Financial implications
- ▶ Health and safety issues for employees
- ▶ Communication change
- ▶ Mental health of staff and coping with the effects of COVID-19
- ▶ Introduction of rotational work schedule



Shortages of donors

- Decline in deceased long bone donors
 - Jan-Dec 2020 versus 2019, 28% Decline
 - Jan-Sep 2021 versus 2020, 32% decline
- Decline in living bone donors (Femoral heads)

Financial implications

- Suspension of elective surgeries during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd wave
- Orders were less, therefore less income
- Experiencing difficulties to be able to pay suppliers for services rendered

Health and safety

- Preventative measures enforced on employees from contracting the virus (especially at the workplace),
- Introduction of screening station at the entrance of the building and other safety measures
- Constant education and awareness on the virus

Communication change

- Since there was no face to face meetings, technology had to be the only way of communicating
- Meetings being held via virtual, so people had to familiarise themselves with such platforms
- Having an acting staff WhatsApp group

Mental health of employees

- Some employees lost their loved ones to the virus
- Increasing the stress level and fear (at least there was no stigma experienced)
- Missing work due to preparations of the burial

Rotational work schedule

- With some members testing positive, the CTE had to close down as they were first contacts with other staff members, which meant 90% of workforce was on mandatory quarantine
- Therefore forcing us to introduce rotational work schedule, to have one team at a time at work
- Therefore preventing a total shutdown should there be positive cases

The Good

- Haven't lost any staff members from the pandemic
- Maintained our ISO 9001:2015 certification
- Continued with Awareness events were done via electronic media. Such as radio interviews, social media pages etc.
- Participation in the opening of the Science Centre in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape



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