

22 April 2020

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN THORACIC SOCIETY (SATS) ON THE CONDUCT OF LUNG FUNCTION TESTING DURING THE CORONA VIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SATS acknowledges the seriousness of the corona virus COVID-19 pandemic. It supports the National Department of Health in its efforts to contain the pandemic and minimise spread.

SATS, in line with international respiratory society guidelines, recommends that no lung function tests must be conducted during this period. This includes the performance of peak flow testing in hospitalised patients admitted with acute asthma. This recommendation is based on the need to obviate or minimise aerosolization procedures that may contribute to the spread of the corona virus.

In the event there is an absolute need for the conduct of any lung function test, it must be requested and conducted under strict supervision, preferably by a pulmonologist. The procedure must be conducted with optimal infection control and use of full personal protection equipment (PPE) as per national guidelines.

ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN THORACIC SOCIETY



Prof. U.G. Laloo



Prof. Coenie Koegelenberg (SATS President)