SA was able to conduct 25,000 Covid-19 tests a day, enough to meet the estimated demand expected to be generated by the government’s community screening programme, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (RSA) said on Tuesday.

This is in line with the guidance of international organisations across the business spectrum, and the government believes that Covid-19 is contained in SA.

The health department has deployed more than 10,000 field workers to test, assess and refer patients for testing for the highly contagious Sars-CoV-2 coronavirus across the country, he said. The government is strongly urging for the testing of those who are asymptomatic.

Illness has swept around the globe in less than four months, infecting more than 1.9 million people and killing nearly 100,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University’s website.

Dr Motsoaledi said the number of confirmed cases in SA stood at 24,802, with a median age of 44 years.

Eligibility for testing is based on the need to establish the scope and scale of the epidemic.

Our sense is that the country is capable of testing or has been capable of testing and testing kit point of view to conduct 25,000 tests a day, the head of SA lab, said.

The work field is now on what further steps are expected to be taken. The work on the extent of Covid-19’s spread in the country is the mandate of the government.

We are all aware this is not a short-term thing. We are all doing is deferring the spike,” he said.

The head of the minister’s 56-member advisory committee, Sabinet head, said on Monday night that by the end of the week, the setting up the testing and screening programs will be able to assess whether the current estimate at an average of 14,000 tests a day is accurate.

From a purely public health perspective, the most critical thing for the country to be seen is that once the number of daily infections falls below 40, he said.

Motsoaledi@health.gov.za

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