

## ■ LOCKDOWN

# Extension would be bad for elderly

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WITH limited resources and dwindling funds, those caring for the aged said a voluntary lockdown until the end of September would be difficult.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, an internationally recognised epidemiologist and infectious diseases specialist who is a government adviser for the Covid-19 outbreak, made the suggestion this week.

Abdool Karim outlined a worst-case scenario where the country delayed the inevitable outbreak peak to September with the lockdown extension.

“But a voluntary partial lockdown would be needed for the elderly and those with chronic conditions until the end of September to prevent infection.”

Chronic conditions included diabetes, hypertension and asthma.

Femada Shamam, chief executive of The Association for the Aged, said it cares for 1 900 elderly people in 13 homes in and around Durban with 150 staff.

“Almost 80% of our elders have chronic conditions, and their well-being is vital, so we still press on in our mission.

“The lockdown is vital to keep our residents safe. But we don’t know if we can do an extension,” said Shaman.