What battle against Covid-19 entails

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, accompanied by various experts and the chairperson of the ministerial advisory group, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, on Monday provided a breakdown of South Africa’s efforts to tackle the spread of Covid-19 as well as plans for the road ahead. Here are some points:

**SA’s unique trajectory**
The trend in Covid-19 infections in South Africa has taken a unique path, Karim said. Before the lockdown, there was a rapid rise in cases. But it has somewhat flattened.

**Testing is increasing**
As the rate of infection went up, the number of tests conducted increased, Karim said. This reduces the possibility that a lack of testing caused a “false” flattened curve.

**Lockdown has been effective**
A first wave of infections brought about by international travellers led to a second wave of community transmissions. However, this, surprisingly, did not lead to an exponential growth of infections.

**Government concerns**
Aggravating factors for community transmissions are high-density hubs where there is a high potential for the spread of the virus. These hubs include Johannesburg, Cape Town and eThekwini.

**What’s next?**
Despite the success in stemming the spread of Covid-19 in communities, Karim said the “difficult truth” remained that a spread of the virus was unavoidable.

**The good news**
Government interventions have delayed a potential disaster.

**Vital week ahead**
Everyone needs to follow the lockdown rules while the government monitors community transmission, Karim said.

If the average number of day-to-day cases increase between 10-16 April, the lockdown will continue.

**National surveillance day**
Karim announced that once a month South Africa will have a national surveillance day during which a 5% sample will be collected from a small number of schools, mines and companies.

**Concerns**
Patients who have conditions, like HIV/AIDS, are also a concern. South Africa’s Covid-19 epidemic will occur at the same time as the flu epidemic, making it more confusing for people. – News24 Wire