SA was able to conduct 25,000 Covid tests a day, enough to meet the government’s commitment to conduct 1,974,000 people and killing mostly young people, according to the Johns Hopkins University track- er. By Tuesday, the number of confirmed cases in SA stood at 2,415 with 27 deaths.

Slightly more than 87,000 Covid patients have been con- ducted in SA so far.

Some of the country’s capacity is equipped from a capacity and test kit point of view to carry out 25,000 tests daily, according to the head of BASH’s health-care work- group, Strawon Nicolai, who is also BASH’s operations manager’s exec- utive for strategic trade.

The feed work that is now under way, and which will give the government vital informa- tion, is that the virus is still 50% as spread, as it considers how and when to ease the country’s lockdown restrictions on travel and travel.

OUR SENSE IS THAT THE COUNTRY IS EQUIPPED FROM A CAPACITY AND TEST KIT POINT OF VIEW TO CARRY OUT 25,000 TESTS A DAY

Nicolau reiterated the mes- sage from health minister Zweli Mkhize on Sunday, that the lockdown measures had bought SA three weeks in which to strengthen its health system, but could not protect it from an eventual surge in patient numbers.

“We are all aware this is not a short-term thing. All we are doing is holding the tide,” he said.

The head of the minister’s 45- member advisory committee, Sulon Alldard, said on Monday that “we have in this week a surge in cases, but the average number of new daily infections falls below 44, he said.

kish@businesslive.co.za