

**Essential facts about**

# COVID-19

**The disease,  
the responses and  
an uncertain future**

**For South African Learners,  
Teachers and  
the General Public**

**Commissioned by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)**



The **Academy of Science of South Africa** (ASSAf)

was inaugurated in May 1996. It was formed in response to the need for an Academy of Science consonant with the dawn of democracy in South Africa:

**activist** in its mission of using science and scholarship for the **benefit of society**, with a mandate encompassing all scholarly disciplines that use an **open-minded** and **evidence-based** approach to build **knowledge**. ASSAf thus adopted in its name the term 'science' in the singular as reflecting a common way of enquiring rather than an aggregation of different disciplines. Its Members are elected on the basis of a combination of two principal criteria, **academic excellence** and **significant contributions to society**.

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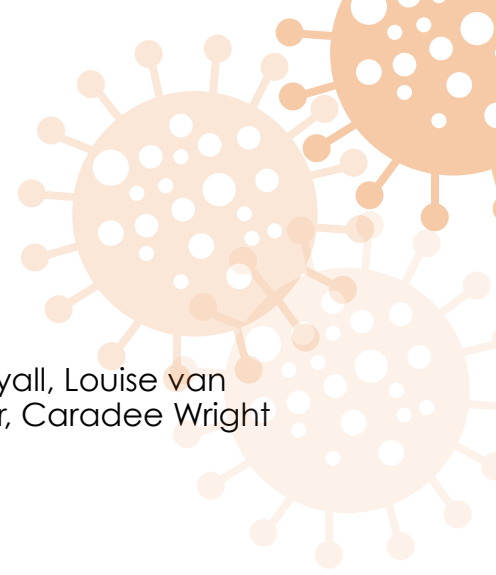
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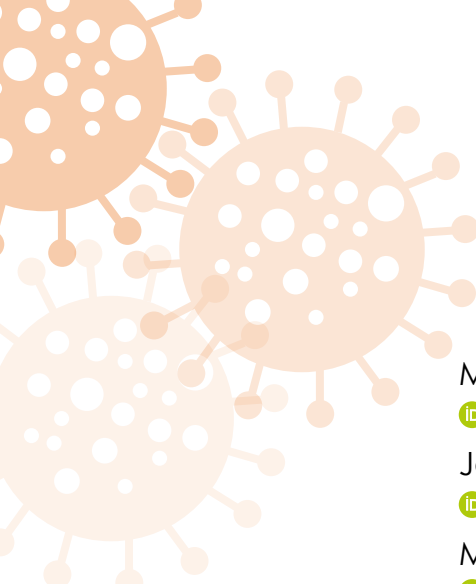
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The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (No 67 of 2001), which came into force on 15 May 2002. This made ASSAf the only academy of science in South Africa officially recognised by government and representing the country in the international community of science academies and elsewhere.

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A. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Publications

C. ASSAf Policymakers' Booklets

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