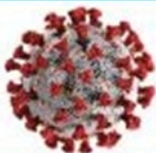


CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



HOTLINE: 0800 029 999

Company donates drugs to government

STAFF WRITER

THE South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) has given approval for Austell Pharmaceuticals to donate 500 000 Chloroquine Phosphate tablets for use by the Department of Health.

Austell Pharmaceuticals, South Africa's largest black-owned pharmaceutical company, would donate these tablets to the government.

"Austell would like to thank the Department of Health and Sahpra for the expeditious review and approval of Chloroquine Phosphate in terms of Section 21 of the Medicines and Related Substances Act," Austell chief executive Suhail Gani said.

Austell's donation of half a million tablets follows a growing body of evidence that Chloroquine Phosphate can reduce the number of days Covid-19 patients spend in hospital, and the amount of time patients remain infectious.

China, Belgium and South Korea have also adopted Chloroquine Phosphate in their Covid-19 treatment guidelines, while the drug has been recommended for use in France, Australia and the US.

"We fully support President Ramaphosa's announcement of a national lockdown. This should dramatically decrease the rate at which the Covid-19 virus is spreading throughout the country,