

HIV positive patients at severe risk if infected with COVID-19



Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **169** HIV+ patients have been admitted to hospital after being infected with COVID-19.
- **25** HIV+ patients have died due to COVID-19.

People who are HIV positive and NOT ON TREATMENT are at extreme risk because of their weakened immunity.

Platinum Health therefore urges its members who are HIV positive and not on treatment, to urgently consult at their closest Platinum Health facility and go onto antiretroviral treatment (ART) as soon as possible.

HIV positive patients who are on treatment should continue to take their HIV medicines regularly as prescribed in order to become viral load suppressed. *Being viral load suppressed means your body's immune system is strong and will fight infections that attacks the body.*

All HIV+ patients should be vaccinated as soon as vaccinations become available as the risk of becoming severely ill or dying is greatly reduced.

For more information or assistance, consult at your closest Platinum Health facility.

