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## **Covid-19 – Sale of Essential baby items during lockdown**

### **Essential baby items, clothing can be sold in lockdown: Dlamini-Zuma**

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Baby clothing was not listed as 'essential' under the original lockdown regulations, which have since been amended.

Essential baby items and clothing may be sold in stores during the 21-day lockdown, the department of co-operative governance and traditional affairs (Cogta) said on Thursday.

“Following requests for clarification, we confirm that this provision includes baby clothes, blankets, towels and other essential accessories for new-borns, infants and toddlers up to 36 months old,” said minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

“To ensure the effectiveness of the lockdown in containing the spread of Covid-19, all stores that are currently permitted to remain open for the sale of other essential goods, including supermarkets, may therefore sell these products.”

Mothers have raised concerns over not being able to buy baby clothes and goods at certain stores in the country.

The regulations were amended in the Government Gazette on March 25-26 to include “products for care of babies and toddlers” as essential goods.

Dlamini-Zuma said her department had been in contact with the CEOs of large retailers, who had “undertaken to sell these products at prices which simply cover their basic costs of production and distribution for the period of the lockdown”.

“Hospitals and clinics may directly procure these products as necessary to provide for the infants in their care,” she added.

### **YOU CAN BUY BABY CLOTHES UNDER LOCKDOWN – COGTA**

Following many requests for clarity on the sale of ‘baby care products’ after shops stop selling clothing during the lockdown, Cogta says South Africans can buy clothing for babies between 0-36 months.

BRITS, North West – Mothers of toddlers and moms-to-be are relieved to learn that they can now purchase baby clothing. This follows many requests for clarity on the sale of ‘baby care products’ after shops stopped selling clothing during the lockdown, despite the amendment to the regulation on 25 March, which allowed the sale of baby products.

In a statement on Thursday, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has clarified that the sale of baby care products, including clothing, is permissible.

“The regulations published on 25 March 2020 included, under paragraph 6(a), the following inclusion as an essential good:’(iv) Products for the care of babies and toddlers’. Following requests for clarification, we confirm that this provision includes baby clothes, blankets, towels, and other essential accessories for new-borns, infants and toddlers up to 36 months old.”

With the winter chill creeping in, parents vented their frustrations at not being able to buy warm clothes for their children; while expectant parents lamented not being able to even fulfil the hospital bag list when preparing for delivery.

Non-profit organisations approached the courts, labelling the prohibition of the sale of baby clothing as unconstitutional.

On Monday, the Tebeila Institute of Leadership, the African Institute for Human Rights and Constitutional Litigation filed an urgent application at the Constitutional Court, seeking an order for businesses to be allowed to sell products essential to the care of babies.

Pick n Pay, Clicks, Shoprite and Checkers are some of the stores that will now sell baby and toddler clothing in the remaining days of the nationwide lockdown.