

Newsflash: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!

Tuesday 26 May

Country Equity	Index	Year to Date	Currency	Price	Year to Date
SA Equities (ZAR)	FTSE/JSE ALSI	-12.3%	Gold (USD)	1,737*	+14.4%
US Equities (USD)	S&P 500	-8.5%	Platinum (USD)	813*	-12.3%
UK Equities (GBP)	FTSE 100	-20.5%	Oil (USD)	34.84*	-46.1%
German Equities (EUR)	DAX	-15.4%	USD/ZAR	18.39*	-20.1%*
Japanese Equities (JPY)	NIKKEI 225	-12.3%	GBP/ZAR	22.41*	-13.6%*
Chinese Equities (CNY)	SHANGHAI SE	-7.6%	EUR/ZAR	20.05*	-17.8%*

Source: Morningstar Direct, Bloomberg, *time of writing 06h20, 2020-05-26

A vaccine made by the US company, Novavax will begin testing today in the first human trial in the southern hemisphere in Melbourne, Australia. It will be tested on a group of 130 healthy adults with the first results expected in July. There are more than 100 vaccines being developed around the world, and around a dozen have begun human testing. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has suspended testing of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine for treating COVID-19 over the risk of increased heart problems in patients.

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is set to reopen its trading floor on Tuesday after a two-month closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. The death toll in the US has reached 98,218. Yesterday was Memorial Day in the US with many heading to the beach. Reports of poor social distancing and lack of masks were reported in many places.

Here in SA the lockdown will be eased on the 1st of June with more people being allowed to return to work, the curfew lifted, restrictions on exercise outside ones home removed, and the sale of alcohol allowed. This as the number of infections and deaths continue to rise. The number of deaths increased by 195 over the past seven days.

Tomorrow, 27 May, two astronauts will blast off from Cape Canaveral, Florida aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. This will be the first time that NASA personnel will be launched from the US since the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011. SpaceX, founded by South African born Elon Musk, and Boeing were awarded contracts worth USD 7 bn in 2014 to fly US astronauts to the space station. The launch is set for 4.32 pm Eastern time (10.32 pm SA time). NASA won't be able to accommodate thousands of space tourists, as it had once planned, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sources: BBC.com, Bloomberg.com, News24.co.za, MoneyWeb.co.za

Coronavirus Numbers Update

Global Confirmed 5,495,061	Global Deaths 346,232	Total Test Results in US 14,604,942
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Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University

For more information, contact:



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596777	23615	11917	481	1032
TESTS CONDUCTED	POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED	RECOVERIES	DEATHS	NEW CASES

Source: Department of Health

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