

COVID-19: BREAKING NEWS #05 17 MARCH 2020



Even though the authorities tell us that there hasn't been a detected case of Coronavirus in our Province yet, it could only be a member of the Flat Earth Society who would predict that the pandemic will bypass the Eastern Cape, or our City, or MHA. It's on its way; we just don't know where or when.

The CovidCom team and MHA's wonderful staff are literally working around the clock to be prepared as best we can. In line with what is being done across the globe, and in accordance with best practice initiatives recommended by the WHO, our government and other authoritative bodies, CovidCom has decided that the following drastic but absolutely necessary measures will be introduced:

1. **A Total Lockdown of CP Bradfield Frail Care, Maranatha Frail Care and Bob Zeiss Bedsitters** will take place. This entails the following:
 - i. No resident may leave any of these facilities, unless for emergency medical attention
 - ii. No visitors (including residents from cottages) will be allowed to enter (exceptions will be made on compassionate grounds, by prior arrangement)
 - iii. No delivery person will be allowed to enter any of these facilities; drop-off and pick-up will occur in parking areas, and will be controlled by staff members at the entrance to CPB
 - iv. These steps apply to Bedsitter residents as well
 - v. The Hairdresser service will continue on the upper floor of Bedsitters, for the time being, and will be restricted to Bedsitter and Frail Care residents only
 - vi. For the foreseeable future, breakfast and supper meals will be offered to Bedsitter residents, if desired, in addition to the existing provision of lunch. This will be at MHA's cost
 - vii. The pedestrian gate between CP Bradfield and Cassia Gardens will be closed
 - viii. The lockdown will commence at 08h00 on Friday, 20 March 2020
2. Thursday, 19 March 2020 will be the last MHA bus **transport** for residents (Bedsitters, Epworth Close and all villages) to shopping centres, or for outings
3. Should MHA experience an outbreak of the virus, a **dedicated facility** is now being prepared to serve as an isolation area
4. **Our Independent Living villages:**
 - i. Lockdown of all community centres including libraries and hairdressing salons will occur; NO entrance to any of these facilities will be permitted as from after Thursday 19 March 2020
 - ii. Blood pressure visits by Matron Sanet Marx are cancelled with immediate effect (individuals will still be visited)
 - iii. The Domestic Housekeeping service is suspended after Thursday 19 March 2020
 - iv. No external domestic housekeepers or gardeners will be allowed onto the premises after Thursday 19 March 2020. Residents so affected must notify their service providers

- v. Special arrangements will be made for private Care Workers. Any resident who makes use of such a service must obtain written approval from Head Office to continue their service
- vi. Residents should refrain from visiting Managers in their office. Please make use of phones (mobile or landline) or e-mail to communicate
- vii. Only emergency maintenance will be done
- viii. The painting team will continue their work on the exterior of all buildings

Please rest assured that CovidCom will regularly review the steps which are going to be implemented by week-end. We are adopting a “belt and braces” approach to the threats coming our way, because we see it as best practice right now, based on the globally sourced information before us.

If ever there was a time for the citizens of this world to unite in love, support, disciplined behaviour and positivity, it is now. The Board and Management of MHA ask for your understanding and your support as we continue to cope with the unknown. CovidCom, the Board and all the staff of MHA are learning on a daily basis.

I used a cruise liner analogy at yesterday’s CovidCom meeting. The good ship MHA has a competent group of Officers (CovidCom, the Board and the Managers) on the bridge and at the wheel; we have a cohesive and well trained crew of 112 (our staff), and we are dedicated to looking after the welfare of about 570 passengers (our residents across MHA). We are fully aware of the dangerous storm ahead of us (Coronavirus), but we cannot avoid it, and so we must do everything in our power to mitigate the risks, limit the damage, and have plans in place to protect the lives of all on board. We cannot and will not be complacent.

Keep well, avoid crowded places, practice hand hygiene during all your waking hours, and love your neighbours by watching out for them.

Malcolm Stewart
CovidCom Chairman

Please remember: As we present new “Breaking news” bulletins, the replaced ones are being filed under the News tab, and then under the Archives: Covid-19 drop-down folder on our website. Residents and family with access to internet will then be able to pull up previous bulletins, if and when needed.

