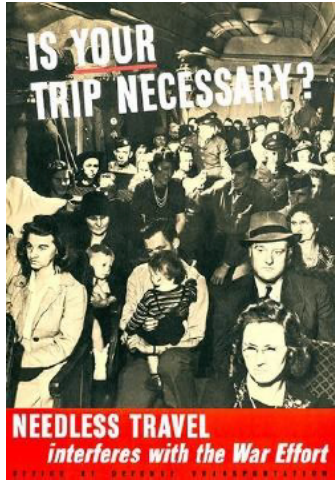


COVID-19: NEWSFLASH #74: FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2021



**THIS IS A DESPERATE PLEA TO ALL MHA RESIDENTS:
UNLESS YOUR TRIP OUTSIDE IS REALLY NECESSARY,
PLEASE STAY SAFE, AT HOME.
IF YOU DO LEAVE YOUR HOME, PLEASE WEAR YOUR
MASK.**

This has been a busy week for MHA staff, with Liaison Committee meetings taking up a lot of necessary time. It is also “budget time”, on top of everything else happening day to day. So please forgive CovidCom for only producing a brief and businesslike Newsflash today!

CovidCom met this morning, as we have done weekly or fortnightly for the past eleven months. Based on available current information, and having heard various opinions about how the country, our Province and our Metro are faring infection-wise, we again reviewed our practices and protocols, and our rules and regulations. CovidCom believe that we should continue to be careful and cautious, as we have been from the outset. We must all be mindful that the country remains in Lockdown Level 3, and that the state of emergency, in terms of the National Disaster Act, continues until 15 March. Through CovidCom, MHA will also continue to analyse our Covid-related risks on a daily basis, and to create a workable balance between what the NDA/Government dictates and what we believe to be in the best interests of our residents and our staff. We hope and pray that CovidCom will continue to make the right decisions in this regard; thus far, our track records says that this is so.

The following matters were unanimously agreed at today’s meeting:

- **Village Halls: these will be opened up again, subject to:**
 1. No more than a third of residents per Village can be in the Hall at the same time
 2. Where there is seating, chairs must be a minimum of 2 metres apart (side and front)
 3. Normal protocols regarding sanitizing and wearing of masks must apply
 4. No refreshments/food may be served or consumed in the Hall
 5. Any event must be sanctioned by the Village Manager
 6. It is left to the Manager of each Village to announce when their Village Hall will re-open
- **‘Kuierhoekies’/visiting corners:**
 1. These facilities were unfortunately closed down when the country went from Lockdown Level 1 to 3
 2. As much as we want to re-open them, we will keep these facilities at CP Bradfield and Maranatha Frail Care closed for at least the next fortnight, as we get closer to the review of Lockdown Level 3
 3. We are reviewing the structure of our ‘kuierhoekie’ facilities; we need to make them secure (unfortunately there were some instances of physical contact), and to make them more user-friendly, MFC in particular
- **Hairdressing services:**
 1. The salons within Halls at Aldersgate and Annesley Gardens/Sheariton will re-open
 2. Business will be by appointment only (to avoid a queue/gathering outside the salon)
 3. The Managers will decide how/when to implement this

4. The hairdressers/salons serving CP Bradfield, Bob Zeiss Bedsitters, Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close will not re-open yet (yes, we are acutely aware of the desperation of many)

- **MHA Bus: Transport to/from shopping centres in the MHA Quantum remains unavailable until further notice**

- CP Bradfield, Bob Zeiss Bedsitters, Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close: the residents in these four facilities have been locked in since late March last year; they need and deserve our ongoing support and prayers. Unfortunately this restriction must remain in place, but will be reviewed on a frequent basis. Unfortunately too the physical separation of CPB and BZB will remain in place (other than for staff who need to move between the two facilities to do their work).

Two last Covid-related matters:

- A FAQ is: Must I wear my mask when walking in my Village? This is CovidCom's view: A resident walking in the Village should put on a mask when meeting another resident, so it is best practice for residents to carry their masks with them, and put them on as needed. This would apply when they move around private property (their cottage area or around the Village). Obviously wearing of masks is mandatory whenever/wherever in public
- Can a list of 'what you can do/cannot do' rules and regulations be repeated in a Newsflash, as some folk seem to forget what is/isn't allowed: CovidCom's view on this is that, since March 2020, rules and regulations (Government and MHA) have changed frequently, and continue to do so on a regular basis, and it isn't easy to summarize what is currently applicable or relevant. It is recommended that when in doubt, ask a neighbour. If that doesn't work, put on your mask, go outside, and see what happens!!
