

COVID-19: NEWSFLASH #80: MONDAY 28 JUNE 2021

BREAKING NEWS: BACK TO LOCKDOWN LEVEL 4

President Ramaphosa addressed the nation last night, and most of the bad news he shared did not come as a surprise to those citizens who understand the severity of the Covid-19 virus, the deadly impact of the so-called Third Wave, and what needs to be done to prevent the spreading of the virus. Sadly, a vast number of the population throughout the country either remain unaware of what is going on, or have decided to ignore laws and what is being told to them. This is largely why we are where we are today.

CovidCom has done everything humanly possible since March 2020 to keep the Covid monster from our doors, and our success in this regard can be attributed to a mixture of being proactive, being in possession of relevant facts and data, making bold decisions, and receiving the support and co-operation of virtually every resident and staff member. It has undoubtedly been a massive team effort which has got us through the war, so far. This said, several MHA residents are currently infected with the virus, some seriously so.

In the light of the advancing Third Wave, and the Lockdown Level 4 changes which came into effect this morning, CovidCom met today, and have made the following decisions, **all of which come into effect immediately**, and which will remain in place at least until the President addresses the nation again on Sunday 11 July 2021:

1. **NO VISITORS** will be allowed into any of our Villages
2. As is currently the case, no visitors are allowed into CP Bradfield, Bob Zeiss Bedsitters, Maranatha Frail Care or Epworth Close, but this is now extended to no visitors being allowed at the gates or fences of these four facilities
3. Domestic staff, whether privately employed or part of the outsourced service, will not be allowed into the Villages. Domestic staff employed by MHA to work in our Frail Cares etc. will continue to report for duty
4. Privately employed gardeners will not be allowed into the Villages. MHA's gardening staff, who tend our common areas, will continue to report for duty
5. MHA's Maintenance staff will continue to work on painting and refurbishment projects, and will attend to any emergency maintenance issue (please report those to your Manager). Residents who require emergency maintenance services for privately owned assets (e.g. appliances) may make the own arrangements, as is currently the case.

CovidCom is acutely aware that the decisions taken will be unpopular in some quarters, but the safety of our residents and staff is of paramount importance. Within our city and across the country, Covid-related deaths are escalating at a frightening pace, and the actions taken by CovidCom today are in response to that. We ask each and every one of you to co-operate and comply. Let us all play our part in trying to keep the Lockdown 4 hardships down to a fortnight, and not for an indefinite period, as happened last year.

Malcolm Stewart

CovidCom Chairman (and on behalf of the Board, Management, our staff, and CovidCom)

COVID-19: NEWSFLASH #79: THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2021
THE 'THIRD WAVE': NEXT WEEK? NEXT MONTH?

On 7 June 2021 the Eastern Cape Premier Lubabalo Mabuyane declared Nelson Mandela Bay a Covid-19 High-Risk Zone. He told the media that:

- A cross-functional team would be deployed to the Metro in order to strengthen the enforcement of level 2 measures
- In the latest 24 hour reporting period, there had been one fatality and 44 new Covid cases in the Eastern Cape, bringing the death toll in the province to 11 673
- There had been a 59.6 % increase in active Covid cases in the past seven days
- The SA Modelling Consortium estimates that the 3rd wave can be expected from between the 14th of June and the 17th of July onwards, but that it will likely be lower than the second wave.

We cannot ignore the facts: we have recently had two Covid infections within MHA, we are aware of 17 positive infections in another Frail Care facility in the City, and a number of residents' family members are becoming infected. It would be negligent of CovidCom to turn a blind eye to these facts. As we have done successfully over the past fourteen months, we need to be aware of what is happening around us, what the warning signals are, and then to be proactive in our response to any increase in Covid risk.

CovidCom met yesterday, and the following decisions were taken, and which will come into effect from Friday 11 June 2021:

1. The visitor corner/kuierhoekie at CP Bradfield/Bob Zeiss Bedsitters, Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close will be removed until further notice (these are high-risk areas, but have also been subject to some serious abuse and non-compliance by visitors)
2. Visiting residents at the gate and fence at CP Bradfield and Bob Zeiss Bedsitters will still be permitted, but with additional measures implemented in order to ensure safe distancing (here too there are increasing instances of non-compliance by visitors and residents alike)
3. The safety screen over the main pedestrian gate at Maranatha Frail Care will remain in place, but with additional measures implemented
4. The hairdressing salons which serves CP Bradfield/Bob Zeiss Bedsitters, Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close will close until further notice

CovidCom regrets having to make these decisions, which we know cause frustration, confusion and hardship to many. The safety of our residents and staff is always paramount, and we have to continue to be proactive, relying on the best information available to us.

Other matters discussed at the meeting were:

1. Domestic services at cottages in our Villages will not be affected at this point in time. We do, however, urge our cottage residents to continue to be vigilant, to watch out for tell-tale signs such as coughing or sneezing, and for residents and cleaning staff alike to wear a mask and practice safe distancing and sanitizing at all times. The staff of the contracted cleaning service will have their temperature taken by their supervisor at commencement of each shift
2. As you know only too well, there remains a lot of inefficiency, confusion and misinformation around the national vaccination process. When there is more clarity we will inform all residents and staff, but for now we share the following:
 - i. If you receive an SMS and voucher informing you of your appointment for being vaccinated, our advice is that you go to the venue at the appointed day/time, and get vaccinated

ii. MHA is in the process of being registered as a vaccination site. There is still no indication of when that might happen, but when it does happen we will be able to vaccinate residents and staff on site, at all of our facilities

iii. PLEASE bear in mind that, even if you have been vaccinated, you can still spread the Covid virus to others. Also, you can still be infected with the virus and become sick. Please continue to wear a mask whenever you go out, and practice safe distancing.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-10 pandemic in early 2020 over 57000 fellow South Africans have died from the deadly virus, and deaths worldwide were at 3.76 million as of yesterday. Even so, millions are still not taking the virus seriously enough, or at all. We must continue to protect ourselves and others by doing what we need to do----you don't need reminding!

**Malcolm Stewart (who waits patiently to be summoned to receive his jab!!)
CovidCom Chairman (and on behalf of the Board, Management, our staff, and CovidCom)**