

## **COVID-19: NEWSFLASH #75: FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021**

The following matters were discussed and agreed by CovidCom at a meeting on 3 March 2021:

### **1. Village halls:**

With immediate effect, refreshments/food may be served and consumed in the Hall

### **2. Hairdressers:**

- i. The hairdressing salon serving CP Bradfield and Bob Zeiss Bedsitters will re-open on Monday 8 March 2021 (or as soon as arrangements/protocols have been put in place). This service will still not be available to Cassia Gardens residents.
- ii. Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close salons will re-open on Monday 8 March 2021 (or as soon as arrangements/protocols have been put in place). This service will not be available to Maranatha Village residents
- iii. Business will be by appointment only (to avoid a queue/gathering outside the salon)

### **3. Visitors into CP Bradfield and Marantaha Frail Care:**

The emotional and extremely difficult matter of visitors being allowed into our Frail Care units was discussed in depth. The risk of allowing this is too great, even if on a 1-on-1 basis, and so still cannot be allowed

### **4. Going away from CP Bradfield/Bob Zeiss Bedsitters/Maranatha Frail Care/Epworth Close:**

The present position is that residents in all four facilities are locked in, and have been since late March 2020. Research has shown that the majority of residents in BZB and EC are happy to continue with that for a while yet. After lengthy discussion, and on the basis that CovidCom would still discourage it, it has been decided that residents in these four facilities will be allowed to leave their place of residence to visit family or friends, effective Monday 8 March 2021, but only on the following basis:

- i. Doing so must be at the sole risk of the resident concerned
- ii. Going out must be for a minimum of 10 days
- iii. On return, the resident must self-isolate in his/her room for 7 days
- iv. This arrangement cannot apply to any resident who, in the opinion of CovidCom, would not be able to adequately cope with the difficulties and challenges which self-isolation brings
- v. Prior discussion and arrangements with the Matron or Manager must take place, and consent given

### **5. Kuierhoekies/Visiting Corners:**

- i. It was agreed that this facility will be re-opened at CP Bradfield, Maranatha Frail Care and Epworth Close on Monday 8 March 2021, in addition to 'gate visits' which should continue, as desired
- ii. A better, more compassionate way of providing this facility is under review
- iii. Protocols and safety precautions are a critical component. Visitors will need to comply with hand sanitizing, wearing of a mask other than when separated by the screen, and that NO physical contact can be allowed, no matter how difficult that is. There has been abuse of this in the past; if it occurs again, it could lead to immediate closure of the visiting facility
- iv. Bookings for MFC must be done through Matron Windell (076 5616669) and for CPB through Ros Rose (081 5167566), only on weekdays between 09h00 and 12h00
- v. This emotional matter is under constant review by CovidCom, which has to maintain a

balance between what Government dictates, what MHA puts in place, and what makes common sense. In the end CovidCom will continue to make decisions based on facts

**6. Church services:**

These will commence again at CP Bradfield/Bob Zeiss Bedsitters and at Epworth Close, in the week commencing Monday 8 March 2021

**7. MHA bus:**

It was agreed that it should still not be used for transporting residents to/from a shopping centre

**8. Opening up between CP Bradfield and Bob Zeiss Bedsitters:**

This will again be permitted, effective Monday 8 March 2021, making it possible for CPB residents to use the BZB library and lounge, and to attend church services there. It will also allow for CPB residents to visit BZB residents, and vice versa.

The changes now agreed upon will impose a huge strain on staff, and create a large admin load. Residents and families are therefore asked to please co-operate and to comply. What has now been opened up is not just about the resident or the family member; it impacts on the whole MHA family. Up to now everyone has been extremely patient and largely compliant, for which CovidCom is most grateful. Please let's keep that up!

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