

COVID-19: NEWSFLASH #66: WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020

CovidCom has consistently reminded all those in the MHA family that Government's moving the country to Lockdown Level 1 did not signify that the war against COVID-19 had been won, or was over. On the contrary, what has happened and is happening in other countries across the world indicates that a second surge is almost inevitable. Within the MHA context this indicates that all of us still need to be cautious, to take precautions, to behave responsibly, and to thereby protect ourselves and others.

Sadly, this isn't happening as it should. Residents in our Villages are walking about, or arriving to have their blood pressure taken, without wearing a mask; parties involving several people are taking place; Government's rules and regulations are being ignored, and it is apparent that there is an increasing level of non-compliance and complacency, and a decreasing level of common sense being applied. The majority continue to comply but, unwittingly or not, the minority are putting lives at risk. Yes, there is generalizing involved here, but this is not the time nor place to tip-toe around the issue.

Recent events at Aldersgate are a case in point, and regrettably have to be singled out. Ten days ago a memorial service was held in the Aldersgate Hall (special permission granted), but CovidCom has become aware that there was singing during the service, residents hugged the bereaved, and subsequently paid visits. The bereaved husband, and his daughter, have since been tested positive for COVID-19. This now puts everyone who attended the service, or who has had contact subsequently, at risk of contracting and/or spreading the virus. These are the consequences of the situation:

- Any people who had contact with the bereaved at the service should ideally isolate themselves for the next 10 days, until 17 October 2020. To those affected: you know what to do; what needs to be done. It is up to you
- The Aldersgate Hall will be locked with immediate effect, and there will be no exceptions regarding access until at least 17 October 2020

CovidCom met on 2 October 2020, before the Aldersgate issues were known, and the following was discussed and agreed:

1. Barriers between CP Bradfield and Bob Zeiss Bedsitters have been removed, allowing freedom of movement by residents and staff of those two facilities
2. Hairdresser Rae Smith re-opened her salon in Bob Zeiss Bedsitters on 6 October (for Bedsitter and CP Bradfield residents only)
3. Effective Friday 9 October 2020 the use of Halls will revert back to pre-Lockdown arrangements, subject to any remaining Government rules relating to numbers etc. Regrettably, this does not apply to the Aldersgate Hall
4. Several other matters were discussed, which are mainly operational in nature.

PLEASE ACT RESPONSIBLY. WE ARE STILL AT WAR.