

Circular 19 – 06 April 2020

Dear Evergreen Resident,

*"It always seems impossible until it is done" - Nelson Mandela*

Now more than ever this quote from the father of our nation rings true. He himself confined to a single jail cell for decades. Many of us are asking how we are going to get through this period of lockdown, but rest assured we will do it together.

THANK YOU to all of you that have taken the time to write to me over the past week, I have received many encouraging emails, notes, and WhatsApp messages. These messages motivate the village management team and me to work even harder for our residents.

Whilst many of you have asked for some sort of relaxation of the lockdown regulations. We have taken it upon ourselves to be in contact with the Premier's office to discuss the practical implementation of these regulations. In the mean-time, we are duty-bound to implement the regulations as published.

I am fully aware that several lawyers, well versed in property matters, have voiced an opinion that the restrictions on exercising and dog walking on an estate's common land are unconstitutional. However, until this is tested in a court of law, they remain just that opinions. The Police and the National Prosecuting Authority differ with this interpretation and are continuing to enforce the lock-down regulations.

We urge residents, irrespective of their personal views on the effectiveness and legality of these restrictions to remember that they have been imposed for the greater good of all South Africans. Therefore, we need to strictly enforce that all residents remain within the confines of their unit and private garden.

What we have done to date, for your continued protection against this virus, which is so lethal to the elderly and vulnerable, is noted below:-

1. Moved nurses and management into each village to limit the risk of them contracting the virus off-site;
2. Locked down each village to the best of our ability. But we continue to rely on our Residents to comply with this lockdown, there is no need for you to leave the village.
3. We screen staff entering our villages daily, as they arrive at work, and regularly during the day, all staff has been issued with masks.
4. We continue to encourage residents to utilize online retail shopping; PLEASE NOTE – all the major retailers are experiencing a backlog we are doing our best to help speed up the process
5. We have multiple volunteers calling lonely and vulnerable residents 3 days per week to lift their spirits and provide feedback to village management
6. We have an emergency call centre for residents struggling to cope with Social Isolation the number is 072 356 7127
7. We have 6 volunteer drivers, one driver per village, to pick up urgent medical supplies and delayed food orders;
8. We have distributed exercises, developed by our physiotherapists that can be done in the comfort of home.

This is a marathon and not a sprint, many of the marathon runners out there will know that the toughest part of a marathon is when you get halfway, an equal distance from the start and from the finish. This week is going to be a very difficult week for all our residents and staff, let's work together to reach the end successfully.

Please stay safe, take care of yourself and others.

Regards

Garry Reed, Managing Director – Evergreen Lifestyle Villages