

Circular 35-2020

24 June 2020

Dear Resident

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your co-operation and commitment to ensure the health and safety of our Bergvliet village community and staff over these difficult times whilst we battle the coronavirus. The province of the Western Cape has recorded 1500 fatalities and, with more than 50 000 cases to date, we are the epicentre of this pandemic. The Cape Town City's Health Department is recording more than 1000 new cases every day and reiterates its call for the public to do their part to stay safe as the province moves closer to the peak.

In a recent article published by the City of Cape Town's media department the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Community Services and Health, Councillor Zahid Badroodien, states that "we need to get to a point where every single one of us treats this pandemic with the seriousness it deserves. The growing caseload and number of fatalities should be setting off alarm bells and a greater level of adherence, but this doesn't appear to be the case in far too many of our communities." he added.

The fact that there is now a rapid spread of the virus in the country is unarguable; hospitals are filling up, ICU beds are running out and the death toll is increasing. Reports on infections from retirement homes and care facilities around us are growing by the day. This coronavirus is on our door step and we have to be absolutely disciplined and focused in our health protocols to try and keep the virus out of our Village.

I realise that while life is slowly starting to return to normal for most of the county, you may have been hoping for some relaxation of the protocols that we have implemented to try and avoid getting this virus. Unfortunately, we have seen that the return to work and opening up of the economy has resulted in high infection rates in the City Metropole, Southern, Western and Eastern suburbs, Tygerberg, Khayalitsha, Klipfontein and Mitchell's Plain. Which means that it is everywhere and every person going out needs to be extra careful.

We, at Evergreen Bergvliet, as a vulnerable community, cannot afford take our eye off the ball or relax our focus. Every person is at risk of contracting the virus and bringing it into our Village. We realise that we are all suffering from "*Covid Fatigue*". I ask that we each assist one another and encourage each other, as we continue in our efforts to keep safe. It is a difficult balancing act. And it is going to be "a very long and winding road" before life settles down to the "new normal".

We know what works – social distancing of 2m; regular hand washing; wearing a face mask and face shield; cleaning surfaces often; sticking to our household units only; not exposing yourself to strangers or large groups of people; avoiding close contact with people who are sick; and coughing or sneezing into a flexed elbow or tissue. If you just need to talk to someone, we have a counsellor hotline that you can call where your conversations will remain confidential.

Please stay healthy and know that we are here for you if you need anything. Thank you again for all your sacrifices and support during this difficult time.

Christine Dampers
Village Manager – Bergvliet

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