

Circular 37-2020

09 July 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM GARRY REED AND EVERGREEN LIFESTYLE VILLAGES

Dear Residents,

### COVID-19 UPDATE – July 2020

We have now all endured 104 days of various levels of lockdown in South Africa. Well done to you all for your endurance and fortitude in getting through this difficult period.

Nationally we have recently seen the dramatic increase in the number of Covid-19 cases. This was to be expected. Below we have recorded the official figures for you which were up to date as of midnight, Wednesday 7 July 2020

### SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURES

The official South African figures are as follows: -

1. Total tests 1,907,532.
2. Total positive cases 215,855.
3. Total recoveries 102,299.
4. Total deaths 3,502.
5. Total active cases 110,054.

We know for a fact that not enough testing is being conducted in our country, which suggests two things: -

1. It firstly suggests that the number of infected individuals is potentially far greater than the official rate (we are not recording all the actual infections). Some experts believe it could be ten times more cases than officially reported...so that could be up to two million people infected so far.
2. And secondly it suggests ... if the first fact is correct ... that young and healthy South Africans are probably dealing with this highly infectious virus very well. Most young and healthy people only experience very mild symptoms and they recover fully over a 14-day period. This is very good news.

What is very worrying, particularly for vulnerable elderly individuals, is the massive number of young people who have this virus but are either asymptomatic (no symptoms) or display very mild symptoms. The vulnerable, elderly population needs to remain vigilant and diligently avoid contact with potentially asymptomatic individuals.

### WESTERN CAPE FIGURES

The Western Cape was the province that was initially hit the hardest by this virus. However, this province seems to now be coping very well with the following official figures: -

1. Total tests 331,377.
2. Total positive cases 71,272.
3. Total recoveries 51,175.
4. Total deaths 2,139.
5. Total active cases 16,958.
6. Total in hospitals 1,735.
7. Total in ICU or high care 315.

## WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO THIS VIRUS?

Globally the statistics are quite consistent and very clear. The most vulnerable individuals are the elderly and those people with co-morbidities. In South Africa the elderly is considered to be anyone over the age of 60 years old. Co-morbidities cover all manner of underlining illnesses, but in particular diabetes and hypertension have proven to be particularly dangerous.

We are stating the obvious when we state that individuals who are elderly and suffer from diabetes or hypertension or both are extremely vulnerable to a very bad reaction to this virus and their life is at serious risk. Globally the elderly have been the people most negatively affected by this virus, with multiple infections and sadly many deaths in retirement villages and nursing homes. To date Evergreen villages have weathered the storm extremely well. We want to maintain our fight against this virus as best we can do together.

## EVERGREEN VILLAGE LIFE

Taking into consideration all of the above, now more than ever, we need to remain vigilant and resolute in implementing and maintaining our village protocols and procedures. Please note that our village protocols and procedures are based upon national emergency legislation, national and international medical advice and global best practice in combatting this highly contagious virus.

We trust that you are all still healthy and remain focussed on your own wellbeing, but also on the wellbeing of everyone else in our village community. We must respect the fact that some of our residents are potentially more susceptible than others to contracting this virus.

We would like to thank you all for the support we have received in following our village protocols, as it is never easy to stick to restrictive measures. None the less you have all been absolutely amazing in supporting our safety protocols for the mutual benefit of everyone in each of our villages.

It is very clear, as noted above, that people over the age of 60 are highly vulnerable to this virus. As a business we are therefore very cautious and we are opposed to the complete relaxation of our protocols. That would be foolhardy and dangerous.

That said, we are fully aware that the reintroduction of some communal activities must start to take place at some point in the future as we try to get our lives back to normal.

Taking into account requests from many residents we would like to share with you some of our proposed amendments to our village protocols noted in detail below.

### 1. MOVEMENT WITHIN THE VILLAGE:

- There are no restrictions on movement in open areas within the village.
- Social distancing by two meters and the wearing of face-masks remains compulsory, it is absolutely essential that your face-mask covers your mouth and your nose.
- Residents should not visit one another in each other's homes, this is a national regulation.
- Social gatherings are permitted in very limited numbers, but we must ensure we all stick to social distancing protocols, with face-masks.

### 2. ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS:

- Library - The library seems to work provided we stick to the allocated time of visiting after 6pm.

### 3. BISTRO, OFFICE, AND CLINIC

- The Bistro is off-limits. No catering service is provided to our residents..
- The reception and offices are similarly off-limits to residents as we do not wish you to be exposed to our staff.

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- Please allow the Clinic staff to provide you with in-home care, by appointment. No Clinic visits will be entertained.

#### 4. VISITORS

- Only immediate family members may enter the village for visits. Please notify reception at least 24-hours in advance. Approved visitors will need to proceed to the clubhouse for screening. We require them to wear three-ply cloth masks at ALL times. (No one under the age of 18 will be allowed access.)
- Non-essential visitation will not be allowed.
- Other than medical and registered carers no external domestic workers or gardeners will be allowed.
- ALL visitors must report to the screening station situated at the clinic to undergo screening protocols - temperature check, hand sanitizing, and presentation of completed declaration documentation.

#### 5. DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE AND GARDENING SERVICES

- Domestic services are still deemed too dangerous and will not be reinstated in the short term.
- Residents who are physically unable to perform basic cleaning can request assistance via our Village management and we will allocate pre-screened Evergreen domestic staff to perform this function. These requests will be treated on a case by case basis. Residents will be required to remain in a different room to the cleaning staff at all times.
- Limited garden services by our utility staff will be provided on the same basis as above. Residents will be required to remain indoors at all times and refrain from any contact with the team members doing the work.

#### 6. CONTRACTORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- Only contractors appointed by Evergreen management to complete essential maintenance work will be given access.
- Requests for this type of maintenance work must be made with the Village Manager directly.
- All deliveries to be collected at the gate after being sanitized. Delivery services will not be allowed into the village to deliver at your home.
- No construction work or variations will take place until further notice.

#### 7. EXITING THE VILLAGE:

Henceforth residents should maintain their own records of who they meet outside the village for purposes of contact tracing in the evidence of contracting this virus. Nonetheless, we strongly encourage everyone to travel only for essential purposes and to avoid any unnecessary contact.

#### CONCLUSION

At Evergreen we offer you all a "PARTNERSHIP FOR LIFE".

Therefore, our number one priority must always be to help preserve the lives of all of our residents. The health and well-being of all of our residents remains the guide for all of our above noted decisions. Your continued support and your responsible decision making are very much appreciated. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Similarly, the health and well-being of each and every resident is reliant to a very large extent on the actions of each of us as responsible individuals.

Collectively, we have successfully navigated our way through the first 104 days of lockdown and we wish to continue to do so together. Please feel free to contact your Village Manager directly if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,  
Garry Reed