

Circular 59 – 2020

21 December 2020

Dear Resident

### **COVID-19 – Hospitals/ICU under pressure**

It is so important to remain vigilant, adhere to the health protocols and to take care of yourselves during the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The province's hospitals are under severe pressure as the number of patients admitted with Covid-19 continues to spike.

The media reports that active cases in Cape Town have doubled in the last nine days, and in the Western Cape they have doubled in 12 days. A total of 2 335 new cases and 73 deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours.

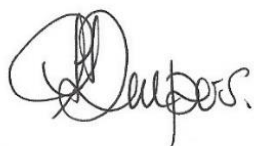
In a statement yesterday, Sunday 20 December, the provincial Health Department noted that ICU and high care beds across hospitals were currently fluctuating between 80-100% capacity daily, placing enormous pressure on the capability of all facilities. On the weekend alone, it was reported that there were 2 032 Covid-19 patients in hospital with 287 patients in ICU/high care. Eleven private hospitals were on divert as they had no capacity to admit patients.

It was noted that the numbers of patients seeking care within hospitals in the province, had far exceeded the numbers during the first wave of infections and that the demand in ICU/ high care wards had reached capacity.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) said at the weekend that although equipment had been made available, the supply of oxygen was in great demand as many hospitals still require bulk liquid oxygen installations to facilitate the use of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen to treat moderate to severe Covid-19 cases. This places Emergency Medical Services under significant pressure.

Please ensure that you always wear a three-ply cloth mask over your nose and mouth at all times when leaving your home to walk in the village, get your post or read the newspaper in the clubhouse. You need to wash your hands often, sanitise all the time and practice social distancing of at least two meters.

Kind regards



Christine Dempers  
Village Manager