

Circular 31 - 2021

4 October 2021

Dear Resident

Adjusted Lockdown Restrictions Level 1 Announced

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that South Africa would move to lockdown level 1 from 1st October. Several medical experts have slammed government's decision to move the country to adjusted Alert Level 1, saying it could trigger the onset of the fourth wave earlier than predicted.

Dr Benjamin Kagina, a senior researcher in vaccinology at Vaccines for Africa at the University of Cape Town, said that with low transmission rates, high vaccination coverage rates and people adhering to health protocols, that it may be possible to avoid a fourth wave. However, he noted that the challenge is the public fatigue in practicing preventative measures as well as the emergence of new variants that are more transmissible and waning of vaccine-induced immunity.

The NICD reported yesterday that 1 306 new cases have been identified, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed cases to 2 905 613. This increase represents a 4.0% positivity rate. The majority of new cases are from Western Cape (22%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (18%).

We need to understand is that this virus is here to stay and it is up to us to stay vigilant, careful and protect each other.

Western Cape has almost 41% of its population having received a vaccine. This will stand us in good stead, it will not prevent however prevent us from getting the virus. As the country moved to adjusted level 1 of lockdown the following restrictions apply to the Village:

FAMILY MEMBERS & VISITORS

Just to remind you what our village COVID-19 protocols are for family members and visitors:

- All visitors will have to be screened at the security guardhouse on entering the village. Visitors will have their temperatures recorded as well as be sanitised and will need to provide contact details. This is to ensure we have accurate traceability in the event of infection.
- Family members and grandchildren (under 18's) will be allowed to visit. They should proceed directly to your home and we respectfully request that they do not use any facilities in the village. Please do not entertain your grandchildren in the common area.
- We recommend that there are only four people in your home (including yourselves/visitors) at any one time.
- We strongly recommend that all visitors keep their masks on at all times and that even in your homes you maintain the 2-meter distancing protocol and remember to wash hands and sanitise regularly.

BISTRO & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- We encourage residents to join us for presentations, social meals and activities
- Luncheon meals will continue in the Bistro for ALL residents who wish to enjoy a meal. Seating will be increased to three per table.
- Take-Away meals will still be available on order and will be delivered to your home.
- The October calendar is finalised and there are a few new activities and outings planned
- A shuttle to transport residents to the local shops/medical suites has been arranged. A poster is on the notice board with further details.

MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance and Repairs will continue under the same guidelines currently in place - residents will be required to maintain and manage safe distancing between themselves and workers at all times.

HOSPITAL/TRAVEL/ISOLATION

- You will not be required to go into isolation if you leave the village to travel.
- If a resident gets admitted to hospital, we will insist that the resident goes into isolation for the required number of 10 days on their return home. This is a non-negotiable.
- If a resident shows any symptoms of COVID-19, they will be required to quarantine until tested and produce a negative result or if positive, to isolate for the required number of days.

I wish to reiterate that All residents must play their part and maintain their distance, wear a three-ply cloth mask that covers the nose and mouth when they leave their homes or when they are in a public space (this is now mandatory and has become law in South Africa). Plastic face shields are not a replacement for a cloth mask and must be worn in conjunction with a face mask, but not on their own

We would again like to request that residents alert the Village Manager as soon as you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, such as a sore throat; a fever or increased temperature; a dry cough; body aches; or shortness of breath; loss of taste and/or smell. If you suspect that you have coronavirus symptoms, please call the clinic or reception for assistance – do not go the clinic, please REMAIN in your unit. It is vital that you report to Village Management as soon as you are not feeling well and that you isolate and do not socialise with other residents.

We have stood together during some tough times and I am grateful for your support. Please call me on Ext 1407 or Amanda on Ext 1401 should you require any additional information. If anything is unclear or you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

And finally, a friendly reminder that my team and I are, as always, at the ready to assist you with any request you may have.

Regards



Christine Dempers- Village Manager – Diep River