

Circular 37 - 2021

06 December 2021

## Dear Resident,

I am sure you are all aware of the recent rapid increase in new positive Covid-19 cases. The latest mutation which has become known as the Omicron variant was identified on 25th November by scientists right here in South Africa and has since been detected in more than 20 countries around the world.

While the increase in cases has not yet resulted in South Africa being officially declared, the so-called "fourth wave", I believe it is only a matter of days. Data on hand is too recent to form an educated opinion however it looks like this variant is more contagious. Fortunately, due to vaccination programme this has not led to many hospitalisation cases or deaths among the vaccinated population. Those who are being admitted to hospital seem to be younger people.

The clinical picture is significantly different to the first three waves. The medical fraternity think this is due to mass social gatherings and to the low level of vaccinations amongst younger persons. An interesting statistic from the Steve Biko Academic Hospital, of the eight patients with covid pneumonia all are unvaccinated. More proof that the vaccination prevents you from getting seriously ill. South Africa had become a little complacent of late and this new variant has come as another "wake-up" call to remain vigilant especially when out in public spaces.

We must do everything we can to keep this virus out of our village. We encourage all residents to practice physical distancing by social distancing; wearing a mask over your nose and mouth when you are in a public place; ensuring good ventilation by meeting outdoors and having windows open in buildings and vehicles; hand washing and sanitising frequently; and staying at home if you feel sick.

We would again like to reiterate to all residents to please alert the Village Manager as soon as you experience any COVID-19 like-symptoms, such as a sore or tickly 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 – please DO NOT leave your home to go to the clinic, we will come to you. 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.

Furthermore, should you or any of your family go for a Covid-19 test, we request that you inform us immediately. Please do not let them visit you until they receive a negative result and we have been informed. You are our main concern and your health and safety is very important to us – we are ready to assist in any way we can.

I ask that you remain vigilant and wish to thank you in advance for your continued support, cooperation and understanding of the situation. Your unselfish attitude to working with the Evergreen Team in keeping the virus at bay, is highly appreciated. Please note that my team and I are, as always, at the ready to assist you with any request you may have.

Yours faithfully

Christine Dempers Village Manager

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