

LETSEMENG MAYOR STATEMENT ON COVID-19



Fellow residents of Letsemeng Local Municipality

South Africa and the world is currently faced with an outrageous virus called corona. As the Honourable President has indicated in his statement to the Nation on 23 March 2020 that it is a week since we declared the coronavirus pandemic a national disaster.

The President also alluded that the response of the South African people to this crisis has been remarkable. It is with high note to recognise the fact that Letsemeng has not registered one corona case since the outbreak of this monstrous virus.

Clearly it is a sign that our people in Letsemeng have understood the gravity of the situation. However we cannot be complacent and relaxed, we must continue to be vigilant and proactively adheres to the Regulations and directives as stipulated by government.

Allow me to also add my voice by making a clarion call to all residents of Letsemeng as reiterated by the President that the most effective way to prevent infection is through basic changes in individual behaviour and hygiene.

As Government we are therefore collectively calling on everyone to:

- Wash hands frequently with hand sanitizers or soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Cover our nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow;
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Everyone must do everything within their means to avoid contact with other people.
- Staying at home, avoiding public places and cancelling all social activities is the preferred best defence against the virus.

It is noted that while the above measures will have a considerable impact on people's livelihoods, on the life of our society and on our economy, however based on the alarming rapid increase in the number of cases the Honourable President and the National Coronavirus Command Council has decided to enforce a total lockdown in order to curb the spread of virus.

We call on all residents to comply with these regulations as stipulated. The nation-wide lockdown will be enacted in terms of the Disaster Management Act and will entail the following:

- From midnight on Thursday 26 March until midnight on Thursday 16 April, all South Africans will have to stay at home.
- Individuals will not be allowed to leave their homes except under strictly controlled circumstances, such as to seek medical care, buy food, medicine and other supplies or collect a social grant.
- All shops and businesses will be closed, except for pharmacies, laboratories, banks, essential financial and payment services, including the JSE, supermarkets, petrol stations and healthcare providers.

Municipal Operations

The nation-wide lockdown is necessary to fundamentally disrupt the chain of transmission across society. In compliance with the directive given by the President, the Municipal offices will be closed for the prescribed period. The categories of municipal employees who will be exempted from this lockdown are those related to service delivery which are the following; categorised as essential services:

1. Electricity
2. Water supply
3. Sewer
4. Refuse removal
5. And Communications

The President expect all South Africans to act in the interest of the South African nation and not in their own selfish interests.

Let all of us play our part and heed to the clarion call of the President of country; the Commander in Chief; The Honourable President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa.

“The best treasure of life is not wealth, but it is simplicity with confidence.”

With commitment and good attitude I’m confident that South Africa will overcome this pandemic.

GOD BLESS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe disease such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The most recent Coronavirus disease is referred to as COVID-19

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

How does coronavirus spread?

1. COVID-19 spreads mainly through person-to-person contact within a two metre radius.
2. People with Coronavirus spread viral particles through coughing and sneezing.
3. It might also be possible to catch it by touching a surface where the virus has recently landed

How can I prevent being infected with Coronavirus?

Maintain at least a metre distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing to prevent contraction of COVID-19

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.

These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing.

Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.

Should I worry about COVID-19?

Illness due to COVID-19 infection is generally mild, especially for children and young adults. However, it can cause serious illness: about 1 in every 5 people who catch it need hospital care. It is therefore quite normal for people to worry about how the COVID-19 outbreak will affect them and their loved ones.

Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19?

Not yet. To date, there is no vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat COVID-2019. However, those affected should receive care to relieve symptoms. People with serious illness should be hospitalized. Most patients recover thanks to supportive care.

The most effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 is to frequently clean your hands, cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue, and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing.

Should I wear a mask to protect myself?

Only wear a mask if you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or looking after someone who may have COVID-19. Disposable face mask can only be used once.

If you are not ill or looking after someone who is ill then you are wasting a mask. There is a world-wide shortage of masks, so WHO urges people to use masks wisely.

Is there anything I should not do?

The following measures ARE NOT effective against COVID-2019 and can be harmful:

- Smoking
- Wearing multiple masks
- Taking antibiotics (See question 10 "Are there any medicines of therapies that can prevent or cure COVID-19?") In any case, if you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early to reduce the risk of developing a more severe infection and be sure to share your recent travel history with your health care provider.

