

23 June 2021

**COVID COMMUNICATION NO. 08 of 2021**

Dear Residents,

I so wish that I was writing this communication from my office! Having said that, I am incredibly blessed and grateful for the outpouring of love, support and prayers that I and my wonderful Team have continued to receive from all of you. There is no doubt in my mind that prayers do work and we thank you. Our brave Admin Team returned to the office on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> on a shorter hour basis as they are all still dealing with the aftermath of their Covid experiences.

We are so sad to let you know that this unrelenting 3<sup>rd</sup> wave has robbed Randjes of two wonderful people. Mrs Barbara Goldman of cottage 345 and Mr Rodney Mehl of cottage 500 have succumbed to Covid. Barbara passed on the 19th June and Rodney on 21st June. May they both rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers go to Barbara and Rodney's families and friends as well as to those Residents who are battling Covid at the moment.

It is also with great sadness to let you know of the passing of Mr Ken Haumann yesterday. Ken served on our Board of Directors for many years as the Vice Chairman and the Chairman of Stratcom. Ken had been battling an auto immune disease for some time and he succumbed to Covid complications. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken's family and friends in this difficult time.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Wave or Tsunami?**

Here are some excerpts from an article posted two days ago by one of the doctors in the Gauteng General Practitioners Collaboration. She states that “.....people going about their lives as normal, continuing to deny the severity of the epidemic by socializing, eating out and having play dates, and continuing to debate whether they actually have to complete their 10 days of quarantine after an exposure, must be lucky enough to have not yet had Covid come into their immediate circles.”

She goes on to say “Gauteng has now passed the peak of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves and it looks like we are gaining momentum, rather than slowing down..... 60% of the new 10 000 a day cases have been in the geographically smallest province of Gauteng. For the last two weeks it has been increasingly difficult to find a hospital bed, both private or public, in Gauteng. Ambulances wait with sick patients in parking lots outside the hospitals, trying to get a space for the patient in the casualty..... the strain of virus we are seeing is extremely contagious and jumping from one person to the next in a few days.....” The article goes on and on painting a really frightening picture for the state of our province.

The doctor reminds us that we all know what to do:

- Avoid gatherings
- Wear your masks (double mask if in a high risk/public place)
- Social distance
- Stay in ventilated spaces
- Wash and sanitize your hands regularly

Our Covid Communication No. 07 on 08 June stated that we would review the 30<sup>th</sup> June date. Based on the information we are getting daily, we believe that the correct and safe thing to do is to extend our hard lockdown until Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. We know this won't be good news but there is no doubt that the lockdown is working to contain the spread of the virus at Randjes.

Please continue to make use of the various systems we have put in place regarding meals, laundry facilities, security sanitizing and delivering food/parcels from the gate. Our Team will assist you wherever they can.

## **Domestic workers/10 days quarantine/post rooms**

**Domestic workers** - we recognize that there are residents on the Estate who need assistance from their domestics with certain daily activities and we therefore asked Residents to do the responsible thing – if it is absolutely critical to have your domestic worker continue to assist you then please do so with the utmost care and precautions in place. Residents who are able to do without their domestic workers for a few more weeks, we ask that you please do that. Remember that ultimately your safety lies in your own hands.

**10 Day quarantine period** - this is unfortunately an unpleasant reality of Covid and the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave – any Resident who is away from the Estate for 1 or more nights must quarantine in their cottage/flat for 10 days (as per President Ramaphosa's latest announcement). We had relaxed this to 5 days when the Covid situation was more stable. This includes new Residents who move onto the Estate between now and the end of July. Residents who go to work every day have to be excluded from this requirement but we do ask that you only travel between the gate and your home and have no direct contact with other Residents.

**Post Rooms @ RJM Hall and Rotary Park** – our post rooms are now open and our drivers are collecting post daily. Please either collect your post regularly or have a friend do it for you as Residents who are not on email can miss out on important information. Remember - 1 Person at a time in the post rooms and no mask no entry. Always carry a small bottle of sanitizer with you so you can sanitize your hands often.

## **Latest on 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the Pfizer vaccine**

The Department of Health have given us the tentative date of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July as the delivery date for our 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of the vaccine for our Residents.

If the delivery does happen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July we could start our vaccination program that day but this is entirely dependent on the arrival time of the delivery. It is probably more realistic to say that we will run our vaccination process on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July. We will keep you posted on what we have all realized is a moving target. Let's be positive though and trust that this will happen as planned.

**EVDS System** - Some of you have queried why your 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the vaccine is not showing on the EVDS system. Remember we had to do everything manually so your names won't show up on the EVDS system yet. Our Matron is waiting to get the password and access to the system and will then load all of your details onto the EVDS system. Matron Jayne is following up on this regularly and as soon as we have been allowed access we will let you know.

In closing, I know we are all tired of Covid and the restrictions it is placing on us, but spare a thought for how busy and tired the private and hospital doctors and nurses are who are fighting this at the front lines.

Please continue to take this seriously for the next few weeks and don't add to the statistics. ***If you experience any flu-like symptoms (runny nose, headache, coughing etc) do not delay – isolate immediately and get tested if the symptoms persist for 3-4 days so you know what you are dealing with, can start treatment and you can protect those around you.***

Please stay safe!

Warmest regards

**Gail & the Team**