



SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY: COVID-19 MEASURES

Dear resident

26 March 2020

With the national lockdown running **from midnight on Thursday, 26 March 2020 until midnight Thursday, 16 April 2020**, we want to ensure the Swartland community that we are doing whatever we can to help curb the spread of the virus.

Restriction on the movement of persons

The lockdown (not shutdown) requires all residents to stay at home during this period and to self-isolate. This means that you may leave home only for the purpose of performing an essential service, obtaining essential goods or services, collecting a social grant, or seeking emergency, life-saving or chronic medical attention.

- All gatherings with the exception of funerals are prohibited
- Movement between provinces is prohibited
- Movement between metropolitan and district areas is prohibited

The categories of people exempted from this lockdown are -

- health workers in the public and private sector;
- emergency personnel;
- security services (such as the police, traffic officers, military, medical personnel, soldiers);
- essential animal welfare and emergency veterinary services; and
- other persons necessary for the response to the pandemic.

It also includes those involved in the production, distribution and supply of food and basic goods, essential banking services, the maintenance of power, water and telecommunications services, laboratory services, and the provision of medical and hygiene products.

Closing of public facilities and suspension of non-essential services

All municipal amenities are closed and non-essential services suspended until further notice. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Community halls, civic centres and library halls	Thusong centres	Swimming pools
Public parks, caravan parks and camping sites	Library services	
Sports facilities and club houses	Community development services	
Beaches (closed for both recreational and non-recreational purposes)		
Yzerfontein harbour (closed for recreational purposes only)		
Traffic offices (for license renewals, etc.)	Driver license and vehicle testing centres	
Street cleansing	Public ablution facilities	
Non-essential maintenance	New service connections	
Transfer stations and landfill sites (Highlands landfill remains open)		

All municipal offices will also be closed to the public. No general administration services will therefore be available, pertaining *inter alia* to building plans, land use matters and housing. Where possible, identified staff members will work from home and connect to municipal systems to ensure that the necessary support services are provided and enquiries responded to.

Essential services remaining in place

Essential municipal services will continue despite the lockdown restrictions. Service delivery issues relating to electricity, water, sanitation or sewer problems will be dealt with. Similarly, for the sake of public health and hygiene, refuse removal will continue as usual.

We urge residents not to discard of waste illegally, and to report illegal dumping to the Municipality.

Cemeteries will remain open, although residents are advised upon making bookings to be mindful of the number of persons at the graveside which are restricted to a maximum of 50 people.

Payments & purchases

No municipal paypoints will be accessible to the public. We encourage residents to make use of online services for the payment of accounts, and to use vendor points to purchase prepaid electricity.

No meter readings will be done during the lockdown period. Billings will be based on estimations done over the lockdown period compared to the usage over the same period in 2019. After the lockdown period, normal billing procedures will resume.

Please continue to pay our services so that the Municipality can remain functioning and deliver services.

Safety

The Swartland JOC (Joint Operations Centre) met on Monday, 23 March 2020 with other role players including the Departments of Health, Education and the South Africa Police Services. The JOC is interdepartmental, and representatives will meet regularly to give effect to the municipal and provincial emergency contingency plans.

Both municipal and other law enforcement and emergency services staff will continue working to ensure the safety of our community. This includes the fire department, traffic services (excluding office staff) and law enforcement.

Communication

Municipal communication with residents will henceforth be limited to releases on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/swartlandmunicipality) and our website (www.swartland.org.za). The latter will also be updated with all governmental regulations, directives and circulars. Should you be aware of someone who does not have access to these platforms, please communicate details to them. Urgent messages will be conveyed by loud-hailing, if deemed necessary. Swartland-specific information will also be communicated from time to time on the local radio station PerronFM 95.1.

We will continue to obtain answers on the details of the lockdown regulations and directives, and to communicate it to the public. Since it is imperative to prevent panic that usually stems from disinformation, we appeal to residents to only use and share information from reputable sources. Note too, that the spreading of fake news is an offence.

We are here for you

The next three weeks will be a watershed period for our community and our country. The Swartland is renowned for the tenacity of its people and the exemplary way challenges are dealt with. Therefore, we call on every resident to do everything possible to adhere to the requirements of the lockdown and to stay safe and healthy.

Let us work together to make things better.

We remain at your service at 022 487 9400 (telephonically) and by e-mail on swartlandmun@swartland.org.za.

Executive Mayor

Tijmen van Essen

Municipal Manager

Joggie Scholtz