



SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY: RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL STATE OF DISASTER

The global COVID-19 pandemic and recently declared State of Disaster by SA President Cyril Ramaphosa necessitates the Municipality, along with provincial and national health departments, to mobilise resources to limit the impact on our Swartland community. We are fortunate that we still have some flexibility, but must do our utmost to prevent a total lockdown of our community and our country.

To help curb the spreading of COVID-19 the following measures will apply with immediate effect (19 March 2020) and until further notice. We will continuously assess the situation and will inform the public accordingly. Needless to say, the measures below might change at short notice.

Municipal services

All municipal services will provisionally continue as normal, but residents are encouraged to avoid non-essential visits to any of the municipal offices and facilities, and to rather use online, telephone, and electronic services. We plead for your understanding that all non-essential contact is avoided and that social distancing is strictly enforced.

Closing and accessibility of facilities

The following municipal facilities are closed to the public with immediate effect:

- Community halls / civic centres / library halls
- Thusong centres
- Caravan parks & camping sites
- Swimming pools
- Sports facilities and club houses

All existing bookings must either be cancelled or postponed. Affected stakeholders will be refunded.

Libraries are closed to the public. Should special arrangements be determined regarding the taking out and returning of material, it will be communicated to users.

Cemeteries will remain open, although residents are advised upon making bookings to be mindful of the number of persons at the graveside, following the prohibition on gatherings in excess of 100 persons.

Customer offices, e.g. cash offices, traffic licencing and test centres, and housing, planning and building offices will remain open for now. However, strong precautions will be taken to ensure a heightened level of hygiene and customers are encouraged to rather conduct their business online or via telephone than over the counter if possible.

Public engagement and gatherings

Please note that all public engagements, ward committee meetings, sectoral and other IDP and budget-related public participation meetings are cancelled until further notice, including the SMAF (Swartland Municipal Advisory Forum) meeting on 15 April 2020.

Meetings of council and its committees will provisionally continue as scheduled, but members of the public will not be allowed access to these meetings. This does not apply to the media.

All **community development projects and holiday programmes** scheduled and presented by the Municipality during the school holidays and on public holidays are also cancelled.

Public gatherings and events

No applications will be approved in terms of the Gatherings Act, as well as in terms of the Municipality's By-law regarding the Holding of Events. Existing approvals are cancelled until further notice.

The Municipality cannot prohibit the gathering of groups at **private venues**, but everyone is advised to follow the directives and protocols as gazetted by the President, the Department of Health and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD).

Detailed information on COVID-19 can be found on the Municipality's website, i.e. www.swartland.org.za.

For further assistance, call the **National Institute for Communicable Diseases Hotline** on 0800 029 999 or the **Western Cape Government Hotline** on 021 928 4102. Alternatively, send 'Hi' to WhatsApp number 0600 123 456.

Preventing the spread of coronavirus

By taking a few simple precautions, you can greatly reduce the spread of the virus.

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands as the virus spreads via contact.
- Make sure that you cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing as small droplets that come out of your nose and mouth can carry germs. Throw the tissue away immediately and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve.
- Avoid close contact (1-2 metres) with people who have a fever and a cough.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as desks, telephones and tables with soap and water.
- If you become ill, please stay at home and isolate yourself from others to prevent the spread of the infection.
- Seek early medical attention and phone ahead to advise the facility of your condition.
- All individuals who have returned to our area from any foreign country in the last 28 days are strongly advised to self-quarantine for 14 days and to undergo the COVID-19 test at the first sign of flu-like symptoms.

Payments

Remember that you remain responsible for the payment of your services account and other fees. The following electronic fund transfer (EFT) payment options are available:

<p>EFT payment option for municipal accounts Bank account holder: Swartland Municipality Bank: Standard Bank Account number: 372865119 Bank code: 051001 Reference number: municipal account number</p>	<p>EFT payment option for sundry items, e.g. building plans, application fees Bank account holder: Swartland Municipality Bank: Standard Bank Account number: 372865143 Bank code: 051001 Reference number: your name and erf number</p>
<p>EFT payment option for fines Bank account holder: Swartland Municipality TMT Fines Bank: Standard Bank Account number: 372865127 Bank code: 051001 Reference number: Fine reference number</p>	<p>EFT payment option for renewal of vehicle licences Bank account holder: Swartland Municipality Bank: Standard Bank Account number: 372865178 Bank code: 051001 Reference number: Vehicle registration number</p>

All municipal queries can be directed to the municipality's switchboard on 022 487 9400 as well as via e-mail to swartlandmun@swartland.org.za.

We know that these measures will be inconvenient for some of our residents. However, in the interest of containing this highly contagious virus and for the protection of all our residents, we trust Swartland residents will understand the need for these measures.

Executive Mayor
Tijmen van Essen

19 March 2020