

Municipality implements COVID-19 action plan

Executive Deputy Mayor, Cllr Aubrey Tsengwa, said the municipality has been following the corona virus crisis very closely and that they are in the process of developing and implementing a contingency and business continuity plan for Knysna Municipality.

“We will implement an internal COVID-19 action plan for the municipality that includes:

- Providing a budget for information dissemination;
- Council meetings will continue as scheduled but access will be limited;
- All budget / IDP meetings have been cancelled, people will be assisted to submit their inputs in writing;
- All public meetings and events in excess of 100 people will be cancelled until further notice;
- Hand-sanitation stations will be placed throughout the organisation and commonly touched areas will be disinfected at a higher frequency;
- A number of services such as Credit Control, Permits and the Housing Helpdesk will be available in the municipal town hall, a more accessible and open space;
- Key personnel will be provided with off-site access to the municipal ICT network to ensure service delivery can continue without disruption.”

Tsengwa encouraged the staff and the public to remain calm and to follow the standard hygiene practices recommended to prevent the spread of flu and other viruses. “Be aware and be vigilant, wash and sanitize your hands and frequently used areas continuously. However, as President Ramaphosa said in this speech, there is no need to panic – *we have the knowledge, the means and the resources to fight this disease. And we will*”.

There are currently 16 confirmed cases in the Western Cape and Tsengwa said it is how we manage the situation that will make the difference. “The guidance released by the Department of Health advises practicing these preventative measures to help stop an outbreak in your community:

- Washing your hands regularly;
- Cover your cough and sneeze in the crook of your arm or tissue and throw it away;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Reconsider or avoid non-essential international travel to affected areas;
- Keep a distance of at least one metre from people who are sick;
- Stay at home if you feel unwell.”

Important contact details:

For any questions or if you have symptoms that match those of the Corona virus, you can call the following numbers:

Hotline – 0800 029 999

Provincial Hotline – 021 928 4102

The latest updates and information are available on the COVID-19 website: www.westerncape.gov.za/coronavirus.

ENDS

e-mail npondoyi@knysna.gov.za