
Acting Municipal Manager heartened by residents' response

In the light of the ever-increasing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 crisis, the Knysna Municipality is doing all in their power to assist residents where possible.

Knysna Acting Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz said that she felt heartened by the solidarity shown by Greater Knysna residents with regards to the Covid-19 crisis. "Since our appeal to residents to adhere to basic measures set out by Government to prevent the spread of this deadly virus, I can see that our residents have understood the importance of these and have implemented them," said Gratz.

Recognising that many residents have questions pertaining to several aspects of the containment of the coronavirus, Gratz said: "My aim is to assist as many residents as possible in providing the correct answers to their questions, but I can't do this unassisted. I therefore appeal to residents to contact the relevant members of our Joint Operations Committee (JOC) directly instead of contacting me or my office directly. This will ensure that they receive the correct information in the shortest possible time," she said.

Knysna Deputy Executive Mayor, Aubrey Tsengwa reminded residents that Dr Gratz was currently managing the municipality with the help of a skeleton staff compliment. "I appeal to residents to appreciate the time constraints placed on our acting Municipal Manager and ask that they contact the relevant departments or our Covid-19 JOC directly with their queries. These are unusual times that we are living in and we thank all our residents for their continued understanding and assistance."

The Covid-19 JOC members and their contacts are as follows:

Head Disaster Management: Richard Meyer rmeyer@knysna.gov.za

Permit officer: For essential services: Denver Lavack travelpermits@knysna.gov.za

Transport: Cluster: Anthony Bans abans@knysna.gov.za

Social Services Cluster: Lizel Baatjies lbaatjies@knysna.gov.za and Eben Phillips directorcommunity@knysna.gov.za

Humanitarian Relief Cluster: Pamela Booth pbooth@knysna.gov.za

Tourism /Economy/ Business Cluster: Petrus Van Niekerk pvanniekerk@knysna.gov.za and Colleen Durant gm@visitknysna.co.za

Disinfecting and Municipal isolation/quarantine facilities Cluster: Dawie Adonis dadonis@knysna.gov.za

Safety and Security Cluster: Lt Col Gogwana knysnasaps@saps.gov.za

Municipal Communications Cluster: Christopher Bezuidenhout pr@knysna.gov.za

Department of Health: Dr Andries Brink Andries.Brink@westerncape.gov.za

Education Cluster: Suzette de Villiers suzette.devilliers@westerncape.gov.za

District Health Cluster: James McCarthy james@gardenroute.gov.za and Linden Herwels linden@gardenroute.gov.za

In closing Gratz joining Tsengwa in thanking Greater Knysna residents for their understanding and assistance during these uncertain times. “Our main aim in to ensure the safety of all our residents, and remind everyone to adhere to the 5 Golden Rules of Good Hygiene, namely washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; refrain from touching the face with unwashed hands; coughing or sneezing into the bend of the elbow or a tissue; keeping a 1.5 – 2m distance from one another and staying home.”

ENDS

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