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NOTICE 7: COVID-19 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON FUNERAL SERVICES

MUNICIPAL RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) NATIONAL LOCK-DOWN

NB!! This notice is based on the current regulations and may change from time to time. As regulations change so will our notices. Please bear with us during this time.

Cemeteries, Crematoria and Funerals

In light of the regulation governing gatherings the following notice is issued to provide clarity and operational specificity to the operation of Funerals.

1. The following burial **times are set daily** and to be pre-booked with community services;
 - a. 10h00
 - b. 11h00
 - c. 12h00
 - d. 13h00
 - e. 14h00
 - f. 15h00
 - g. 16h00
2. All funeral/burial service providers and priests/pastors/deacons/faith leadership are requested to instruct aggrieved family members, clients and affected parties that these burial times are to be applied strictly.
3. In order to avoid or prevent congestion at the cemetery, it is critical that memorial service times be amended to ensure compliance with these burial times. No burial may overlap with another.
4. Once a burial time and date is selected and is established, should the burial service provider not make the burial time, an alternate burial date and time must be selected. There is unfortunately no automatic rollover time to the next time slot on that day. We respectfully request everybody's cooperation in this regard.
5. Under no circumstances are the burial times to overlap with each other as this will result in non-compliance with the directive from the regulations to practice social distancing and to adhere to the strict movement and gathering of persons.

6. Attendance at funerals is limited to 50 persons inclusive of the burial service staff, presiding priest, pastor, deacon, or faith representative. This will include choirs, and ushers and other staff normally associated with such memorial services.
7. No night vigils are allowed. There is no exception.
8. Home services are equally restricted to no more than 50 persons provided the health and physical restrictions can be applied, sanitisation is applicable and sufficient ventilation can be provided. Services should not exceed 45 minutes.
9. Ideally the burial should proceed from the home service directly to the grave if at all possible. Burial services from commencement of the procession to laying to rest should not exceed 45 minutes.
10. If a church memorial service is included then the burial time must be included in determining the length of the service. Under no circumstances will services be allowed to bypass the selected burial slot. The burial service providers are instructed to either comply with the burial time or to withhold burial until such time as is humanly possible. Services should not exceed 45 minutes if at all possible.
11. Travel is allowed within municipal boundaries for the purposes of attendance of funerals for direct family related members **only** in order to minimise essential travel. The burial service provider is advised to issue a confirmation note to the family that a related family member may travel by issuing a notice to that effect. These are restricted to only direct blood relations.
12. The handling and disposal of human remains brought about as a result of the virus must be done in terms of the guidelines and protocols that have been developed by the National Department of Health

Exemptions from all or parts of this notice will be considered after the 17 April 2020.

All residents are required to confirm acceptance of this notice before commencement with the burial services.

All municipal queries for the time being can be directed via email only to info@swellenmun.co.za.

Residents are advised to **STAY AT HOME AND PRACTICE SELF-ISOLATION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING** and an increased awareness of social hygiene by;

- First and foremost, STAY AT HOME and self-isolate and practice social distancing.
- If you engage with people remember to stay at least 1.5m away from each other at all times.
- washing hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitisers for at least 20 seconds;

- covering the nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or flexed elbow;
- avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- all individuals who have returned from any destination in the last 14 days are strongly advised to self-quarantine for 14 days and to undergo the COVID-19 screen and test at the first sign of any flu-like symptoms. Please note that Swellendam Hospital is the official designated test facility for this purpose. Screening can be conducted telephonically.

THIS IS A DISEASE OF PHYSICAL CONTACT. EVERY INDICATION IS THAT IT WILL WORSEN. DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY THAT WILL INCREASE THE CHANCES OF TRANSMISSION OR INFECTION. IT IS NOT ABOUT YOU OR ME.

All other prohibition regulations will be clarified in further notices. We count on your understanding and cooperation in these unique times.

**Executive Mayor
Nicholas Myburgh**



**Anton Groenewald
Municipal Manager**



26 March 2020