



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 INFECTIONS REMAIN STUBBORNLY HIGH IN SEKHUKHUNE

The Sekhukhune COVID-19 District Command Council cautions the public about the rapid increase in corona virus infections.

While the infection rate at the mines (Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality) is diminishing, the community acquired infections are increasing at an alarming rate, particularly in Elias Motsoaledi Local and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipalities.

An urgent intervention in hotspots is needed to avert a looming crisis.

As the curve is climbing fast, Health authorities are painting a frightening picture of what lay ahead of us in the coming weeks. People must do everything humanly possible to protect themselves and their loved ones by taking the risks posed by this virus seriously," says chairperson of the DCC, Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila.

The DCC has committed to intensify awareness campaigns by working closely with stakeholders such as traditional leaders and churches.

Also, the DCC expresses concern at the fact that football tournaments continue to take place in communities, and therefore increasing infection risks. "Another big problem is with regard to funerals. We're aware that people increasingly revert to the old ways of attending funerals en masse, and we've agreed that municipalities must ensure there's compliance with the 50 persons limit by intensifying monitoring of funerals," says Ramaila.

It was also reported to the DCC that a group of community members violently chased out health workers and forcibly closed Magokobjana Clinic after another community member had tested positive to COVID-19 and subsequently passed on in hospital, after they had been transferred by healthcare workers from the clinic.

These disruptive community members insist that the clinic be fumigated, even when health authorities inform them the facility was disinfected.

The DCC strongly condemns this bad behaviour by some in the community.

“No one must interfere with the work of healthcare centers. Closing a clinic is self-defeating and we appeal to our communities not to be misled by people who’re playing political game-plans. Leave healthcare matters to health authorities,” Ramaila says.

As of today (Tuesday 7 July 2020) there are 212 active COVID-19 cases in Sekhukhune District.

- 76 in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality,
- 73 in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality,
- 50 in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality,
- 13 in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

The DCC reiterates its heartfelt request to the people of Sekhukhune to voluntarily place themselves under restrictions similar to those of alert level 5, and go out only to render essential services, attend school, buy groceries and seek medical attention.

In addition, the DCC makes the following advises:

- *Avoid physical contact,
- *Don’t visit even relatives and don’t allow visitors,
- *Don’t host any social gathering,
- *Disinfect groceries when you return from the shops,
- *Stick to the 50 persons limit in churches and funerals, while you observe all precautionary measures,

ISSUED BY SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT COMMAND COUNCIL

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