COVID-19 TODAY
IN SOUTH AFRICA (CORONAVIRUS)

Like the dung beetle is able to roll around dung into balls and bury more than 250kg’s of its weight overnight, so we wake up to the unfortunate news of having to bury hundreds of people due to this enemy of the globe, being the Coronavirus.

The president of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa on the 24th March 2020 announced to the nation that there would be a complete lockdown for a period of 21 days starting midnight 26 March 2020 until 16 April 2020. On the 9th April 2020 he further increased the lockdown for another two weeks. This translated into the republic being behind doors until 30 April 2020. This emanated following the declaration of a National Disaster on the 15th March 2020. Further to this was another extension which was now labelled Phase 4 of lockdown. The announcement came with other stipulations which were to be adhered to by the people of the Republic and which also would be seriously policed by the authorities. On the 30th April 2020 there were a total of about 5 647 infected with the virus with a total of 103 who lost their lives. 1 700 registered diagnosed and 24 death cases. The process of Screening, Testing, Tracing and Medical Management Programme implementation have been ongoing as of 31 March 2020.

This is a virus that has no discrimination against any human being be it colour, age, economic status or otherwise. One is reminded of the fact that along with other sectors in South Africa, during his State of the Nation Address on the 13th February 2020 President Ramaphosa declared Tourism as a priority sector. This is because Tourism has a value chain like no other that has great potential of creating jobs and growing the economy. Tour Operators, Accommodation Establishments, Event Organisers, the Aviation Industry, Cultural Villages, Tourist Attractions, Eateries, Travel Agencies and many more are unable to practice their trade thereby decreasing the possibilities of growth and maybe even, a worst case scenario, have job losses. It has been reported that about 3.7 million jobs be lost as a result of Covid-19, tourism related jobs are no different and form part of this unfortunate prediction.

Domestic Tourism has taken a knock which can only be quantified once the virus has been contained. Unfortunately one cannot quite, at this point in time know when this will be. In the meantime as the Destination Marketing Organisation of the North West Province we are duty bound to disseminate as much information as possible to keep all our stakeholders abreast of what is happening with this virus, the do’s and don’ts as well as how best to tackle the Covid-19.
If ever there was a lesson that I have come to embrace as one of the leaders in government tackling the rippling effects of the coronavirus pandemic that has invited itself onto the citizens of this country and the world at large, it is that the most beautiful people I have known, are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known loss, but found their way out of the bottom of despair.

This is the lesson I have learnt from my interaction with the people of the North West Province and the rest of the country as we stand side by side in the trenches fighting this monstrous enemy referred to in the medical space as Covid-19.

I will be the first one to concede that this has been a devastating and frustrating period for our people as some of their civil liberties like visiting their favourite tourist destinations, visiting friends and family, congregating for their religious pilgrims, attending their special events and eating out at their favourite restaurants have for now being curtailed as we try to respond to the challenge of flattening the curve of infections until the vaccine for this pandemic has been found.

Having seen first-hand through my interfacing with communities on the ground the devastating effects occasioned to our people by this global pandemic I fully subscribe to all the procedures and protocols as encapsulated in the National Disaster Management Act and the lockdown rules designed to be observed by all in the country.

The experts have indicated that the pandemic might peak in South Africa in September after which it is expected to take at least two to three months for the situation to stabilize.

As government we have taken note of how this reality impacts on our people and their ability to financially sustain themselves. We understand the fragility of the state of the economy and the accompanying job losses induced by this pandemic.

The Travel and Tourism Sector faces an estimated staggering 100 million job losses globally due to the Covid – 19 pandemic, for Africa the job losses are estimated to plummet to around 7.6 million. This gloomy picture emanates from a recent research as conducted by World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). This research further bolds our long held belief that without the travel and tourism industry, global economies will struggle to recover in a meaningful way.

It is against this background that as the department we are working very closely with the National Minister of Tourism Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane and other relevant Ministers in the Economic Cluster to bring the much needed relief to our stakeholders and partners within the Tourism Sector.

This we do as we try to maintain a delicate balance between protecting our people from the virus and enabling economic activities. The Department of Tourism Nationally has established a R200 million Covid-19 financial fund to help small and medium sized businesses in the sector with a turnover of under R2.5 million.

Fully appreciating the effects of Covid – 19 on the financial health of the provincial business enterprises; the Department has moved to also establish the NW Covid – 19 Relief Fund as a way of amplifying other government’s intervention initiatives. The relief measures offered by the fund will assist in sustaining and reducing the impact of Covid – 19 shutdown on provincial business enterprises; especially the small and informal traders. Eligible applicants will be able to apply for funding ranging from R1 000.00 to R100 000.00 (One thousand to hundred thousand rands).

Applications for the NW Province Covid-19 Relief Fund will be made available on the NWDC and DEDECT Websites from the 1st June 2020. Considering that each business is unique; each application will be evaluated on a case by case, depending on the availability of funds.

For now let us pause a bit, stay home and be safe. As society let us continue to respect and observe all the guidelines and protocols as instituted under the lockdown space such as social distancing, washing our hands regularly while sanitizing and refraining from massive gatherings of over 50 people, in the end it will be worth our while.

I know for a lot of people that it might feel as if we are in the midst of a long winter because of the things we need to go through due to this pandemic but I take solace in knowing that despite this winter, there is in us an invincible summer.

Ms Keneilwe Mosenogi
MEC: DEDECT
North West Government
It has been a mantra of mine that positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power over you. I have found myself having to dial up on this mantra in the face of this faceless enemy that has besieged the country and the entire globe in the name of Coronavirus, aptly named Covid-19.

This pandemic has been so potent that it has brought the roller-coaster that is life off its rails throughout the world. Here we are dealing with an enemy that does not discriminate nor differentiate on race; gender or creed.

The unintended consequence of this medical emergency is that it has connected humankind and has ensured that as a people we ought to love, care and be more compassionate towards each other.

These are values that have shaped, informed and driven the Board’s response towards this pandemic busy threatening to wipe the human race off the face of the earth.

As daunting as the task before has proven the Board remains steadfast and resolute in its support of President Cyril Ramaphosa and the entire government in fearlessly battling the scourge of medical mayhem unleashed by Covid-19. As I lead the Board during these trying times I have taken comfort in the words of Isaac Asimov who notes the following: “It has been my philosophy of life that difficulties vanish when faced boldly.”

The North West Tourism Board (NWTB) continues to be inspired by the progressive leadership displayed by the North West government.

The MEC for the Department of Economic Development Environment Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), Ms Keneilwe Mosenogi, is leading the efforts to insulate and cushion the Tourism industry against the effects of this pandemic and her efforts must be applauded.

As the Board, in following the MEC’s lead, we cannot but over amplify the protocols as laid down by the National Government during the National Disaster Management period.

Armed with the wisdom and understanding that the tourism sector was not at all spared by this pandemic as an institution we have gone beyond encouraging our stakeholders who remain the nerve of our sector and to take advantage of the interventions government has put in place to assist during the pandemic.

We will at all material times avail and submit ourselves to the needs of our stakeholders and the society at large.

To that end we empathise with our stakeholders for the continued economic loss they continue to endure during the pandemic and we equally take comfort in knowing that some of those losses might be regained once we have gone through this suffering. The same unfortunately cannot be said about the loss of human life.

On behalf of the Board that I lead, I believe the sun will once again shine on this glorious nation of ours and the dark clouds currently hovering over our country and the world will disappear.

Let us not forget what the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly. Let us stay at home today so that we can travel tomorrow.

Mr. Victor Phusoane
Chairperson:
North West Tourism Board
It is Hellen Keller who has deduced the following: “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved”.

How true this assertion rings given the state in which the world and the country find itself as a result of the Coronavirus, widely known as Covid-19. The character of South Africa and indeed the world will come into sharp focus as we continue to battle this pandemic which has nestled the world with wartime conditions during peace-time.

To say the world has been turned on its head as a result of what President Cyril Ramaphosa has termed a medical emergency of unprecedented levels, seems to be an understatement. The Covid–19 pandemic has tightened its grip on the world in such a way that the prism which we use to view the earth will never be the same again. The jargon now is, “the new normal.”

When the State President addressed the Nation on the 15th of March 2020, primarily to announce the institution of the National Command Council as a response to the pandemic we did not quite fathom the magnitude at which our lives as we know them would change. With National Disaster Management in full effect there has been a number of guidelines and protocols that have been introduced designed to combat the effects of what the World Health Organization (WHO) has dubbed the global pandemic.

Chief amongst those is the different levels/phases of the lockdown, social distancing by discouraging gatherings of more than 50 people, cessation of distributing and selling of cigarettes, an improved hygiene regimen of washing and sanitizing hands at all material times as well as desisting from touching ones face.

The Tourism Sector is one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Despite the gloomy picture that has befallen us, we have not gone into a state of paralysis as government.

To that end; a number of innovative and creative measures have been crafted as part of the intervention protocols that government has put in place to try and cushion the knock-on effects of this dreaded pandemic on the sector and its strategic role players.

The National Department has initiated the Tourism Relief Fund for SMME’s.

As a province, we have embarked on a process of conducting a needs analysis of our stakeholders as a way of ensuring that the recovery plan to be engineered by government post the pandemic in assisting its stakeholders is well informed, efficient and effective.

On behalf of the North West Tourism Board (NWTB), I believe that our collective resilience and our ability to adapt to new circumstances will ensure that we together with our stakeholders, survive the pandemic even as we forge further into unchartered territory.

The pandemic has presented us with many variables and challenges to contend with but in the true nature and character of the lasting spirit that the erstwhile Father of the Nation, Nelson Mandela has bequeathed this Nation with, is our ability to triumph over any adversity that stands before us as we have done in the past. I believe we will do so in the future no matter how gigantic our enemy appears.

Till that time let us make sure we preserve human life by all means necessary, let us respect and follow all the guidelines as encapsulated in the National Disaster Management Act, let us continue to practice all the elements of a good hygiene regimen. To our discerning tourist both local and international the province still remains the world class tourist destination of choice. If you had plans to traverse the length and breadth of this majestic destination, do not cancel, simply postpone. Our paths will meet again and until then, we are in this together.

Adv Mothusi Tsineng
Acting CEO
North West Tourism Board
It manifested in the City of Whuhan, in China in November 2019. The virus then spread across the world like wildfire with South Africa reporting its first case on 5th of March 2020. It is believed that most of the early detections of the virus contracted it from having travelled outside of their home country and upon return they came back with the virus because of whom they were in contact with. One other problem is that the virus does not show itself for the initial 5-10 days. Given the fact that they are asymptomatic for so long despite having contracted the virus it is easy for them to pass on the virus to people they come in touch with before being detected.

Most people (80%) infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people (above age of 60 years), and those with underlying medical problems like heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, HIV, TB, and cancer are more likely to develop and cause complications and eventually succumb to the illness. This in no way implies that any other person cannot contract the Covid-19 virus.
Be Ready for Coronavirus.
Be safe from Coronavirus.
Be smart and inform yourself about it.
Be kind and supportive.

MESSAGE FROM WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) COUNTERS
SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS
The Coronavirus spreads mostly through saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice cough etiquette (cough into the flexed elbow, cough into a handkerchief, or toilet paper). It also spreads by touching surfaces when someone with the virus has coughed into them.

A PERSON WHO HAS THE CORONAVIRUS USUALLY DISPLAYS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Fever
- Dry cough and sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue/tiredness
- Aches and pains

Very few people will report diarrhea

Should an individual feel that they have these symptoms and they are severe it is important that they go to their clinic or doctor for testing. The healthcare service will then decide if the individual can go and self-isolate themselves or if they should be quarantined at identified locations.
Coronavirus Vs Flu, and how to manage your flu symptoms and when to seek medical care.

COVID-19 can cause similar symptoms, however, there are several differences between them. The novel strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) causes coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19). Both COVID-19 and Flu are respiratory illnesses that spread from person to person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>COVID 19</th>
<th>Flu</th>
<th>Cold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptom onset</td>
<td>Gradual</td>
<td>Abrupt:</td>
<td>Gradual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Rare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Mild to moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runny nose</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal Congestion</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Aches</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of appetite</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Mild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory issues</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Symptoms of COVID-19 and flu can range from mild to severe. Both can also cause Pneumonia.

**Mild Symptoms:** Fever, Cough, Fatigue, Loss of appetite, Nasal congestion, Sore throat, and Headache.

**Severe Symptoms:** Severe continuous fever, Continuous cough, Shortness of breath, Severe throat pains, severe body and joint pains, mucous that has a strange colour, blood in mucous, chills and sweat.

*If you develop the above-mentioned severe symptoms please urgently consult a medical doctor.*
HOME CARE

At-home remedies for flu symptoms

» Drink water and fluids
» Get rest
» Drink warm broth
» Increase Zinc intake (meat, shellfish, lentils, beans, dairy, eggs, chickpeas, seeds)
» Rinse mouth and throat with salt water
» Drink herbal tea
» Apply essential oils (Cinnamon, peppermint, eucalyptus, geranium, lemon, thyme)
» Use a Humidifier
» Inhale steam
» Eat a bland diet
» Vitamin C supplements
Foods that are easy on the stomach when you have flu

» BRAT diet (bananas, rice, applesauce, toast)
» Crackers
» Cooked cereals
» Gelatin
» Boiled potatoes
» Grilled or boiled chicken
» Soup and broth
» Electrolyte rich drinks

Over the Counter Flu Medicine

» Warm medicinal drinks
» Pain relievers
» Cough suppressants
» Decongestants for blocked nose
» Cough syrup
» Throat lozenges

When to seek help

If your flu symptoms get worse (See severe symptoms above) or are not relieved by home remedies and over the counter medication, please consult a medical practitioner urgently.
Preventative Measures

Wash your hands regularly, at least every 20 minutes with soap and water, or clean them with an alcohol-based hand rub. If possible each time you leave a room.

All non-essential workers are NOT to leave their homes.

Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

When coughing rather cough into your bent elbow or cough into a tissue. Ensure that you throw away the tissue immediately thereafter.

Practice social distancing by keeping a safe distance preferably one metre from other people.

Do not congregate with more than 50 people at any time. As much as possible this number must be less.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty in breathing seek medical care early. You will be treated accordingly and a decision made as to whether you require testing for the virus.

Never touch the tops of drink bottles, glasses and cups or cutlery.

Use sanitisers to cleanse your hands if possible.

Stay home if you are not feeling well.

Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.
IMPACT ON TOURISM
The comment by the minister coined it perfectly as tourism is primarily characterised by travel. This could be for cultural exchanges, medical reasons, leisure, events etc. The CoronaVirus loves this travel as it serves as a breeding ground for the virus to spread. The North West Province is predominantly rural. This means that it is not really possible to for them to protect themselves via masks and gloves.

The events that were set to take place cannot do so now due to the virus and this has hit the youth market economically. Tourism spend is at the highest low. With there being no profits for tourism establishments some will be forced to close down and the North West Province will experience massive job losses.

**Tourism Relief Fund for SMMEs**

Funding criteria and the application process: The Tourism Relief Fund provides once-off capped grant assistance to Small Micro and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMMEs) in the tourism value chain to ensure their sustainability during and post the implementation of government measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 in South Africa.

Capped at R 50 000 per entity, grant funding can be utilised to subsidize expenses towards fixed costs, operational costs, supplies and other pressure costs items.

Guided by the Tourism Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Codes of Good Practices approved by the Minister of Trade and Industries in 2015 (in line with the BBBEE Act No.53 of 2003), the Tourism Relief Fund is administered in line with the objectives of Economic Transformation, and our vision to ensure sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

Categories eligible to apply for the Tourism Relief Fund include the following:

- **Accommodation establishments:** Hotels, Lodges, Bed and Breakfast (B&B’s), Guest Houses and Backpackers.
- **Hospitality and related services:** Restaurants (not attached to hotels); Conference venues (not attached to hotels), Professional catering; Attractions
- **Travel and related services:** Tour operators; Travel agents; Tourist guiding; Car rental companies; and Coach Operators.
Tourism Relief Fund for SMMEs

1. FUND TERMS AND PRIORITY AREAS
   » The relief funding is a once off grant capped at R50 000 per supported entity – funds will subsidize expenses post COVID – 19 lockdown period operations re-commencement activities and can be utilised on expenses towards fixed costs, operational costs, supplies and other pressure costs items.
   » The relief shall be distributed in a spatially equitable manner to ensure that SMMEs in all provinces benefit.
   » At least 70% of beneficiaries shall be businesses that are Black owned as per the Amended B-BBEE Sector Codes.
   » At least 50% of beneficiaries shall be businesses that are women owned.
   » At least 30% of beneficiaries shall be businesses that are youth owned.
   » At least 4% of beneficiaries shall be businesses that have met a target of at least 2% employment of persons with disabilities.

2. QUALIFYING CRITERIA
   » Proof of valid registration with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC).
   » Turnover must not exceed R2.5 million per year.
   » Must have a valid tax clearance certificate or PIN.
   » Proof of compliance with the minimum wage requirements.
   » Priority will be given to businesses on LEVEL 1, 2 and 3 according to the Amended B-BBEE Codes.
   » Must provide proof of UIF registration for employees employed by the business.
   » Be an existing tourism-specific establishment as outlined in the scope of application (suppliers and intermediaries are not eligible).
   » Must be in existence for at least one business financial year.
   » Proof that the relief is required as a result of the impact of COVID-19.
   » Must submit latest statements of financial position, financial performance and cash flows.
   » Must submit 6 months bank statements.
   » Grading certificate or proof of application to be graded for accommodation establishments.

3. NON-QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES
   » Fast food and take away restaurants, nightclubs, bars, gaming and gambling venues,
   » Franchised restaurants and those attached to tourism facilities,
   » Establishments wholly or partially owned by Government will not be considered

4. FUND APPLICATION PROCESS
   » SMMEs can submit funding applications by filling a form accessible online at www.tourismrelief.gov.za, or by email at covidrelief@tourism.gov.za
   » Application forms must be submitted with the following pre-qualifying/compulsory documents:
     - Complete application form.
     - Registration certificate issued by CIPC.
     - Certified ID copies of Directors/members.
     - Six (6) months bank statements.
     - Latest Annual financial statements – Income, Cash flow statements and statement of financial position.
     - Business profile – 2(5)-page max.
     - Relevant industry certification – depending on business focus area.
     - Latest UIF/U-filing contribution certificate.
     - Indicate the intended use of the resources – budget breakdown (to be adhered to in the expenditure).
     - Grading certificate or proof of application to be graded.
     - Certificate of B-BBEE or Affidavit.
     - Tax clearance certificate or PIN.
     - Medical certificate for Persons with Disability where applicable.
North West Covid-19 Relief Fund

NORTH WEST COVID-19 RELIEF FUND TO ASSIST SMMEs, CO-OPERATIVES AND INFORMAL SECTOR

SMMEs, co-operatives, informal traders and hawkers are invited to apply for funding in an endeavor to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on their respective businesses within the North West Province.

The North West Covid-19 Relief Fund was established by the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) & will be managed by the provincial economic development entity, the North West Development Corporation (NWDC).

The relief measures offered by the North West Covid-19 Relief Fund will assist in sustaining provincial enterprises during this economic crisis by working at reducing the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown on their businesses. “Small businesses and informal traders play an important role in the growth and development of the provincial economy, and as such we developed these relief measures to enhance the sustainability of small businesses and informal traders to ensure retention of jobs”, said MEC of DEDECT, Kenetswe Mosenogi.

Eligible applicants will be able to apply for funding ranging from R1000.00 to R100 000.00 (One thousand to one hundred thousand Rands). Applications for the North West Province COVID-19 Relief Fund will be made available on the NWDC and DEDECT websites from the 1st June 2020.

Considering that every business is unique, each application will be evaluated on a case by case basis, depending on the availability of funds.

A broad outline of the type of assistance the North West Covid-19 Relief Fund will offer includes:

Formal Business (SMME) COVID-19 Relief Interventions (CIPC registered)
» Stock Relief Intervention
» Rental and Municipal Bills Relief Intervention
» Income Relief Intervention

Informal Business COVID-19 Relief Interventions (Business not registered on CIPC)
» Income Relief Intervention
» Stock Relief Intervention
» Rental Relief Intervention, (e.g. hair dressers renting workstations)

Application criteria

To be able to apply for the North West COVID-19 Relief Fund, applicants need to meet a number of basic requirements, where applicable to their type of business:

Informal business (Business not registered):
1. Identity Document
2. Proof of Trading for 12 months in the North West Province (Affidavit/letter from Tribal Authority)

Formal business (CIPC registered business):
1. Proof that the business is negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (Such as four months bank statements (January – April), copies of municipal bills, rental bills, stock purchase receipts etc.)
2. Copy of identity documents of business owners (certified)
3. Proof of Trading for 12 months in the North West Province (Affidavit/letter from Tribal Authority)
4. SARS compliance documents

The fund will be managed by the NWDC’s Small Business Development Unit and will be open for applications as from: 1 JUNE 2020

For more information contact the COVID-19 Relief Fund on 017 422 0116
Or visit the NWDC website: www.nwdc.co.za
ACTION BY NORTH WEST TOURISM BOARD TO COMBAT THE VIRUS

The North West Tourism Board has noted the National State of Disaster on Covid-19, declared by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020 and have acceded to the prescripts thereof.

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

- All business entities of the Board have been closed. Where required staff are working from home.
- Education on health hygiene to prevent transmission in tourism facilities has been given.
- Referring medium & high risk clients with symptoms to local health.
- A quarantine zone has been established at the Mafikeng Hotel School.
- All facilities have a designated person to assist people with possible infection.

HELPFUL USEFUL LINKS

- www.tourismnorthwest.co.za
- www.health.gov.za
- www.southafrica.net
- www.labour.gov.za
- https://www.tourism.gov.za

#Weinthistogether
#Wedotourism
#Thistooshallpass
#Postponedon’tcancel
#Stayhome Stay Safe
QUARANTINE / VS ISOLATION / VS LOCKDOWN

Friend or foe. Which is which? Are they all the same? Is it a case of the kettle calling the pot black? Let us look at it from the far right to the far left.

LOCKDOWN

Containing persons in a certain confined environment as per regulations to regain control of the Corvid-19 virus.

ISOLATION

Keeping you away from the mass environment due to the Corvid-19 virus.

The International Health Regulations (2005) define isolation as the separation of ill or contaminated persons or affected baggage, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels from others in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection or contamination. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, isolation may include, amongst others:

» Isolation at a person’s home
» Isolation in a health facility
» Isolation at a designated facility

Isolation in a health facility or at a designated facility can be applied to any person to curb the spread of COVID-19 as per detailed criteria listed below:

Confirmed case

» Confirmed positive for COVID-19 based on laboratory tests (per protocol)
» Mild symptoms not requiring hospitalization (per protocol on home care)
» Inability to isolate at home due to unstable housing, number of individuals in the home, distance from hospital, or other medical or socioeconomic factors

QUARANTINE

A more physical and stringently strict environment that ensures that you are in a safe area away from those you may infect with the disease.

According to the World Health Organisations International Health Regulations, (2005) quarantine means the restriction of activities and/or separation from others of suspect persons who are not ill OR of suspect baggage, containers, conveyances or goods in such a manner as to prevent the possible spread of infection or contamination. The purpose of quarantine is to prevent the transmission of diseases.

Quarantine can be applied to:

» An individual or to a group of persons who were exposed to the coronavirus or to persons believed to have been exposed on a conveyance during international travel.
» A wider population- or geographic-level basis.

The North West Tourism Board has taken it upon themselves to join millions across the globe by assisting where they can during the pandemic. The Mafikeng Hotel School has been offered as a Quarantine Entity and should there be a need there are trained individuals on site to assist the North West Province and its incumbents in availing this ever so needed self-haven.

(Please grab images of the Hotel School off the net.)
QUARANTINE FACILITIES MUST BE:
» Ideally located in the outskirts of the urban/city area (can be hotels or resorts/, unused health facilities/ hostel, university/college facility etc.).
» Easily isolated to prevent public access.
» Protected and secured (preferably by security personnel).
» Security services must be provided to ensure authorised access control in or out and safeguard the persons.
» If possible, the facility should have a fenced perimeter to prevent access from the public.
» Outside of known natural hazard risk zones (consult local/district disaster risk management plan).
» Have the ability to deal with natural disasters and have a disaster management plan in place.

THE MAFIKENG HOTEL SCHOOL IS ABLE TO TICK ALL THE ABOVE BOXES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFICATIONS</th>
<th>NON-NEGOTIABLE</th>
<th>MAFIKEMNG HOTEL SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well ventilated room - opening windows</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand wash basins in each room</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed frames that can be disinfected</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linen: (Linen being washed at ordinary temperatures using a washing machine. No need for disposable linen, if disposable lined used, then use health care risk waste box directions as per above.)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Training is the most important and critical part to ensure that all activities take place as per established protocol and SOPs. Training should be conducted by a team from provincial departments of health to onboard staff before any patients are quarantined. Training should specifically focus on:

» Training of healthcare professional on SOPs that needs to be followed at the quarantine centres for daily examination, movements in the facility, infection prevention control measures and use of PPE kit etc.
» Training of clinicians, laboratory technicians and medics on appropriate sample collection (nasopharyngeal and throat) and triple layer packaging with cold chain maintenance.
» Paramedical staff (staff nurses, medics, pharmacist etc) need to be trained on SOPs to be followed at quarantine centres and use of PPE kit.
» Support staff (housekeepers/cleaners, caterers, security staff, drivers and general duty staff) need to be trained on the use of masks, gloves, cleaning and disinfection procedures and use of PPE kit, etc.
» Refresher training or regular direction to all the above staff needs to be provided on an as-needed basis.
» When a new staff member is assigned to a quarantine site, it needs to be ensured that he/she has received proper training before undertaking the work.
» All training should emphasise that all activities/procedures must be done under the strict monitoring and observation of trained specialists.

The North West Tourism Board has realised that it too must play a role in combating the pandemic. We must participate in this new conventional normal and as much as possible join the battlefield to eventually flatten the long awaited curve. Through the offering of the Mafikeng Hotel School as a quarantine site it will be possible to turn Corvid-19 on its head and finally, like the wrestler that did not practice and gym………tap out.