



ChevrahKadisha

JHB Chevrah Kadisha Resident facilities update

8th May 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members

As another week comes to an end and Shabbat approaches, we would like to provide you with a brief update on developments at the Chev's facilities.

Testing: Thank G-d, none of our residents or staff is Covid-19 positive but we continue to take every precaution. Testing is carried out whenever a suspicion arises and regularly on high risk residents - those who have to leave the premises for essential medical treatment such as dialysis, chemotherapy, etc. We also continue to test high and medium contact risk staff weekly and bi-monthly i.e. those whose duties take them to multiple areas of the buildings and campuses. Random testing is carried out on both staff and residents for monitoring purposes.

Infection-control protocols: All deep-cleaning and infection-control protocols continue to be applied rigorously. Residents discharged from hospitals are kept in isolation for a precautionary period of 14 days. Those residents who can tolerate wearing masks are issued with masks to use when they go outside during allocated time slots or whilst moving around within the facility when necessary.

Staff: Staff continue to be **screened** upon arrival every day. We are constantly **educating and training** them in multiple languages about precautions they need to take and have set up smaller staff tea rooms to avoid congregating. We have also administered free flu vaccinations to staff and residents. Our staff have been issued with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to wear when required and with masks that they wear all the time whilst on duty.

From next week the Chev will be assisting with **transport** for care and nursing staff. This is a huge challenge and logistical effort as we have two shifts per day and multiple geographic areas to cover. We know, however, that the risk of exposure on public transport is high and must therefore do all we can to minimise it. We have issued staff with masks and hand sanitisers to take with them while being transported to and from work.

We have also investigated housing our care and nursing staff but with almost 400 people to **accommodate** (working day and night shifts), it is virtually impossible. In addition we cannot insist that our staff leave their families, perhaps for months on end. Even with a clear financial benefit, most staff were unwilling to move out of their homes.

Residents: Our residents continue to eat their meals in smaller sessions in the dining rooms to accommodate social distancing. Programming activities continue in small groups; e-visits are popular and continue to be arranged via 063 212 4193 and residents are spending time outdoors during specified periods to enjoy the warm weather we are fortunate to be having.





ChevrahKadisha

We are mindful that we need to balance physical protection with the psycho-social needs of those we care for. The decisions we take are researched and calculated, based on regular external consultations with an independent medical advisory committee and a virologist to ensure we meet the highest standards. Intelligent and compassionate decision-making takes into account the multitude of complex factors involved in protecting the emotional and physical needs of our residents.

Every Jewish aged home is doing all they can to protect their residents. Ultimately, we are fighting an invisible enemy, which makes it extremely difficult. Right now we have no positive cases in any of our facilities and we constantly pray for Hashem's continued blessing.

Shabbat Shalom

Saul

Saul Tomson

Chief Executive Officer
Chevrah Kadisha Group

Should you have any concerns or questions please contact the relevant facility:

Selwyn Segal: Belinda Bersiks 011 532 9709
Arcadia: Elana Bannier 011 483 7507
Lodge and Square: Vanessa Chesno 011 532 9635
Our Parents Home: Denise Bloom 011 489 7195
Sandringham Gardens: Cheftzi-vah Kruger 011 483 7425

Or, after hours, our emergency Helpline - 082 499 1010

Arcadia

Selwyn
Segal

Our
Parents
Home

Sandringham
Gardens