



ChevrahKadisha

JHB Chevrah Kadisha Resident facilities update 15 June 2020

Dear Residents and Families

COVID-19 - ALL FACILITIES UPDATE

I trust this letter finds you well. There have been some developments at a few of our facilities. While there is no cause for alarm, in keeping with our promise to ensure that you remain informed at all times, I offer the following update.

1. **Our Parents Home:** A resident recently tested positive for Covid-19. That resident was tested prior to being admitted into hospital for a treatment and was negative. When he returned to Our Parents Home the following day he was placed into isolation *as is our policy whenever someone returns from hospital*. He had been in isolation for a week when he was retested and at that point we found that he was positive. He has remained in isolation ever since. All isolation protocols have been followed and the resident remains asymptomatic. We have also found one staff member at Our Parents Home to be positive. This staff member is involved in resident transport and accompanies residents when they need to visit hospitals. She has been isolated and also remains asymptomatic. As a result of these two cases we have taken the precautionary decision to isolate all residents at the facility for another few days.
2. **Selwyn Segal:** On the recommendation of our Medical Advisory Board, it is protocol for us to test the temperature of *every resident and staff member in every facility twice each day* in order to detect spikes in temperature as early as possible. It was during one such test that a resident was found to have an elevated temperature. She was moved into isolation and has been there for a number of days. Over this past week-end test results showed that she was Covid-19 positive. She has displayed mild symptoms but none that are worrying. As a result of her case we tested some people - both staff and residents - who may have had exposure to her and found one outsourced cleaner to be positive as well. All proper isolation procedures were followed in that case too. In light of the above we have taken measures at Selwyn Segal this weekend to lockdown the facility and all residents have been confined to their units. Activities will be done with them in their units, as they have been up until now, and all units remain fully staffed. Staff are also restricted to working in their specified units and may not work in any others in order to minimize the risk of infection.
3. At the **Lodge and Square**, an independent, consulting medical specialist has tested positive for Covid-19. Despite the fact that she was meticulous about wearing a mask and PPE, the handful of people she had contact with have been isolated as a precautionary measure.



Registered as Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand & Burial Society



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As mentioned above, all of our cases are entirely asymptomatic with the exception of our Selwyn Segal resident, whose symptoms are mild.

We are happy to report that as of this morning we have conducted 52 tests across all facilities, which have all come back negative, thank G-d.

We remain diligent with our policies of regular screening and ensuring that all staff are disciplined regarding PPE and infection-control routines. Every effort is being made to keep all our residents safe and protected and to keep families informed of developments as we monitor progress.

As you can imagine the ongoing testing, precautionary measures and infection-control protocols are costing the Chev an additional R1 million per month. For the first time in its long history the Chev has been forced to launch an **Emergency Relief Fund**. We appeal to those of you able to assist us with these expenses to do whatever you can. Equally important, it would be deeply appreciated if you could share this request with your family and friends both in South Africa and overseas. Due to the exchange rate donations from abroad are particularly helpful but every contribution, no matter its size, will help us to maintain the very high levels of safety we apply to protecting our residents during these most difficult and challenging times.

Please visit www.jhbchev.co.za to donate.

Please G-d we should have only good news to report.

Best wishes

Saul

Saul Tomson

Chief Executive Officer
Chevrah Kadisha Group

Arcadia

Selwyn
Segal

Our
Parents
Home

Sandringham
Gardens