

JANUARY 2021

**24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade** 028 313 8000/8111  
028 312 2400

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## NOW IT'S UP TO EVERYONE TO STOP COVID-19 IN ITS TRACKS



South Africa's Minister of Health, Zweli Mkhize, announced on 9 December 2020 that a second wave of COVID-19 infections has hit the country. This came shortly after the Western Cape Premier, Alan Winde, made an impassioned plea to all residents of the province to do their utmost to avoid the need for yet another lockdown and to help protect an already volatile healthcare system.

***"Our economy simply cannot afford it. A lockdown will kill jobs and cause our humanitarian disaster to worsen. This will also cost lives in the future."***

He appealed to everyone to keep on avoiding the three Cs as far as possible:

1. Crowded spaces
  2. Close contact (instances where maintaining a distance of 1.5 m is not possible)
  3. Confined and enclosed spaces where there is poor ventilation.
- "Since the onset of the pandemic," he said, "we learnt a lot about this virus and how it spreads."

- While hands and surface cleaning are important, we now know that air droplets cause most COVID-19 infections, as humans breathe in small droplets containing the virus. As a result, we also know that social gatherings contribute substantially to its spread.
- We previously thought transmission starts between two days before and up to 14 days after symptoms spread. We now know with more certainty that the highest rate of transmission occurs in the first two days of infection.
- We previously thought the virus was mainly spread by symptomatic adults, but we now know that it can be spread by people of all ages including children, teenagers and adults with few or no symptoms. Although children are at a very low risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms, we must remember that they are still able to spread the virus to those who are vulnerable and at risk of developing severe symptoms. That is why we all, regardless of age, need to play our part to slow the spread."

Given this new knowledge, the Department of Health developed practical "safe keeping" tips everyone can follow to contain the spread of COVID-19:

- Reconsider having traditional celebrations/funerals: Go virtual.
- Avoid non-essential gatherings (get-togethers, social events and the likes).
- If you must gather, consider having get-togethers and social events outdoors; otherwise, ensure that the venue has good ventilation by opening windows and doors.
- Limit the size of your get-together (more people = more risk).
- Keep get-togethers short (longer = more risk).
- Irrespective of the circumstances, always be careful about sharing your "air space": Keep a distance of 1.5 m.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use a sanitizer.
- If you feel sick, call the hotline on 080 928 4102 immediately for guidance on the next steps and do not leave your home unless it is to seek healthcare treatment.
- Quarantine if you have had close contact and isolate while awaiting test results including from other household members and especially those at risk of severe COVID-19.
- Be sure to complete the isolation period if you test positive.
- Do not visit someone who is sick. Find other ways to provide support, like delivering a meal to that person's doorstep.

Unfortunately, the resurgence of new cases is linked to shopping malls and people not adhering to basic guidelines.

## HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED ON TWO COUNCILLORS



**OVERSTRAND CONFERS ALDERMAN STATUS UPON TWO COUNCILLORS:** Pictured here are Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill (left), Alderman Riana de Coning, Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Alderman Kari Brice. **\*Kindly take note that masks were removed for this photo.**

At the last Council meeting of 2020 held on 25 November, Overstrand Municipality bestowed the honorary title of Alderman on two of its Councillors, Kari Brice and Riana de Coning.

This title is awarded to a councillor for meritorious service over a period of time and is based on credits received for the number of years served as councillor and additional credits for chairing a ward committee or mayoral committee and/or serving as speaker, deputy executive mayor or executive mayor.

The last time Overstrand conferred this honorary title on councillors was in 2016.

Given this state of affairs, Premier Winde had an unequivocal message for business owners and managers too: "You cannot in any way cut corners on COVID-19 safety protocols and you must abide by all the regulations. You are our best hope for policing all points of gathering, because you can ensure the behaviour needed by people when they are at your establishment. Help us keep the economy open by ensuring that your staff and customers are safe at all times."

Winde admitted that his biggest concern is for the Western Cape's health platform, which is under growing pressure.

"We need to ensure that every person gets healthcare when they need it. For that reason, we need every person in the Western Cape to not only help prevent a lockdown but to also ensure that there are enough empty beds in our hospitals for those who need them."

As is evident from events in Europe and elsewhere in the world, a resurgence of the pandemic can result in the healthcare situation deteriorating rapidly and, for that reason, I urge members of the public, businesses and other organisations to report violations of COVID-19 protocols immediately so that our teams can take action."

Violations of COVID-19 regulations can be reported by way of the online complaint form available at <https://coronavirus.westerncape.gov.za/covid-19-business-safety-complaint-form>. Alternatively, dial \*134\*234# to report non-compliance in terms of public transport.

For COVID-19 health-related queries, call the provincial toll-free hotline: 080 928 4102.



## GET YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT VIA EMAIL



Residents are encouraged to register to receive their accounts via email by sending such a request to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za).

If you have more than one account, you do not have to send the same request again. You can simply add the other accounts to your original email request.

Accounts are payable at the latest by the 20th of each month. Please pay accounts timeously to avoid collection fees, interest, increased deposits and the termination and/or limitation of services.

As convenient as electronic transfers may be, please take extra care when you enter the reference number or account name.

If you make one payment for different accounts, specify (via email) how much should go towards settling each of the accounts.

When paying an overdue account, please make sure that we have been furnished with the correct information:

- the amount paid,
- Municipal account number.

Residents can settle their municipal accounts at the Overstrand Municipal offices, food stores, via the Pay@ and Easy Pay systems and by way of electronic transfers and other online banking options that are available.

Always use your account number as reference when making a payment.

If you have not received your account by the 10th, please contact a Client Services Officer at your closest Rates Hall (Kleinmond (028 271 8400); Hermanus (028 313 8000); Stanford (028 341 8500) and Gansbaai (028 384 8300), or direct any questions regarding municipal accounts to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) or visit your nearest municipal office to verify your account details.

Note, the accounting department cannot be held responsible for incorrect payments done at outside vendors.

### The bank account for Overstrand's account payments are as follows:

Nedbank account number: 1190136899

Type of account: Current account

Universal branch code: 198765

Branch: Inland Garden Route

(Please note that this is the correct reference for Overstrand Municipality)

SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ

### Pre-paid electricity:

Pre-paid electricity can be bought online ([home.ontec.co.za](http://home.ontec.co.za)) or on your cell phone (download the app from the play store). Should you need assistance, phone Ontec at 0861 220 244 or e-mail [servicedesk@ontec.co.za](mailto:servicedesk@ontec.co.za).

Pre-paid electricity tokens are available at Pick n Pay, Checkers and Spar as well as garages (Engen) and various other outlets.

## ENJOY FERNKLOOF SAFELY

With its sixty kilometres of interlinked trails, the Fernkloof Nature Reserve is a delight for avid hikers and nature lovers alike.

Gate opening times for summer are from 06:00 to 19:00 and all visitors must please ensure that they keep to these times.

### Safety tips:

- ❖ Program emergency numbers in your cell phone before you set off.
- ❖ Don't hike alone.
- ❖ Allow yourself enough time.
- ❖ Inform someone of your route and what time to expect you back.
- ❖ Wear a hat or cap and sun block in summer. The weather can change rapidly and unexpectedly.
- ❖ Stick to well-used contour paths.
- ❖ Always take enough water, especially in summer, and food in case of a delay.
- ❖ Take a fully-charged cell phone.
- ❖ A walking stick makes for an easier hike. These are available at the visitor centre on loan.
- ❖ Book a Tourism Safety Monitor to accompany you on your hike. These monitors are available on a complimentary basis during weekdays between 08:00 and 16:00. Please make a reservation to walk with one of these guides by emailing [infomanager@hermanus.co.za](mailto:infomanager@hermanus.co.za) or [capewhalecoast@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:capewhalecoast@overstrand.gov.za).

Here's a reminder of the contact numbers you might need for the various emergency services:

- ❖ 028 312 2400 in case of a fire, flood or medical emergency
- ❖ 028 313 8980 for security and safety issues
- ❖ 028 313 8996 law enforcement day-to-day complaints



## Grotto to fly its Blue Flag till Easter



Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion, Cllr Kari Brice, Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill and Blue Flag Coordinator Lauren Rainbird along with protection services personnel, municipal officials, Blue Flag beach stewards and other stakeholders

The Blue Flag season for Hawston, Kleinmond and Castle Beach will come to an end on 17 January 2021, but Grotto will enjoy an extended season until 31 March 2021.

During this time, lifeguards will be on duty daily from 09:00 until 18:00 and people living with disabilities will also be able to make use of beach wheelchairs during these hours.

Grotto is one of only two beaches in South Africa who has managed to retain its Blue Flag status for 20 consecutive years. At the time of the flag-raising ceremony held on 1 December 2020, Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dudley Coetzee, gave special recognition to environmental specialist, Leon Steyn, for this remarkable achievement. He drove the Blue Flag beach programme from the outset up and until his retirement five years ago.

The Blue Flag programme offers many benefits: improved tourism facilities, enhanced management of coastal ecosystems, increased awareness of the coast and capacity building of coastal municipalities.

"Under supervision of Overstrand Horticulturist and Blue Flag Coordinator, Lauren Rainbird, a lot of time and resources have been invested in preparing our facilities to receive visitors for the 2020/21 season," Coetzee said, "and I thank her for her enthusiasm. Even though it is expensive to operate a Blue Flag beach, Overstrand gladly makes this investment because we care about our residents and visitors and make it our business to provide them with facilities of the highest quality".

### About the Blue Flag

Overstrand Municipality is working closely with WESSA (Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa), the implementing partner of the Department of Tourism for the Blue Flag programme, to improve its beaches and coastline. To achieve Blue Flag status, as many as 33 criteria, spanning over four areas of coastal management, must be maintained.

The four areas are water quality, environmental education information, environmental management and safety services.

## REGISTER ON OVERSTRAND'S SMS DATABASE

Account holders can make use of the municipality's SMS database to register their cellphone numbers in order to receive the latest updates on service delivery notifications, such as

- Emergencies, e.g. veld fires, floods and traffic problems;
- Scheduled interruptions during which municipal electricity and water networks will undergo maintenance or repairs, excluding Eskom-controlled interruptions.



### HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE MUNICIPALITY'S SMS SERVICE:

Please send an email to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) or contact a Client Services Officer at your nearest Rates Hall if you want to activate the SMS service. Please use your municipal account number as your reference.

KLEINMOND: 33 Fifth Avenue, Kleinmond; 028 271 8400

HERMANUS: Magnolia Street, Hermanus; 028 313 8000/8111

STANFORD: 16 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford; 028 384 8500

GANSBAAI: Main Road, Gansbaai; 028 384 8300

• Your contact information will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to other parties.