

13 March 2020

Dear Respublicans,

As you know well by now the coronavirus – COVID-19 - has caused a global outbreak of an illness now classified as a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO). In response to the outbreak, Respublica aims to ensure that we place our people first and that employees and students are informed, protected and equipped to handle any infection in the workplace or our residences.

At the same time we are mindful not to contribute in any way to creating unnecessary panic and our approach is to be pragmatic and for our actions to be appropriate to the circumstances prevailing at a specific point in time.

We are monitoring the situation daily but as the pandemic is a constantly changing situation we are aligning all our action and policy according to WHO and our country's **NICD** (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) who follow WHO guidelines and treatment methodologies.

WHAT IS RESPUBLICA DOING?

Our priority is to ensure all Respublica residents are living in a clean and hygienic environment and that we limit unnecessary contact and exposure between large student groups. Please note that the following are only initial steps and further actions will be implemented at our residences as matters develop and in accordance with the risk that we potentially face:

1. **Education** – Staff and students at all residences have been educated on:

- 1.1. What is Coronavirus (COVID 19)
- 1.2. Prevention measures.
- 1.3. Symptoms and transmission.
- 1.4. What to do when you have symptoms

2. **Limiting contact**

Staff

- 2.1 Restricting employee travel

Students

- 2.2. Minimising, postponing or cancellation previously scheduled student gatherings
- 2.3. Closing of gym's
- 2.4. Deactivation of biometric finger access control. We will be instituting alternative identification control measures (manned entrances and identification wristbands).

3. **Hygiene**

- 3.1. Engaging with our service providers (Bidvest Group) on best practices and revising cleaning protocols, disinfectants and frequencies were necessary.
- 3.2. Installation of alcohol-based sanitizers at entrances and high-risk points within residences.

To manage this situation effectively we require the cooperation and understanding of all residents and staff. We respectfully remind everyone that your actions and habits affect all residents and as a



community cohabitating in the residence we have a joint responsibility towards each other's wellbeing.

RESPUBLICA PROTOCOL FOR A SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19

1. Staff or students displaying the symptoms will be quarantined away from the residence population in a safe, isolated room.
2. Parents/Guardians/Partners/University will be contacted by Respublica.
3. Arrange for the affected person to be assessed by a qualified medical practitioner who would then contact National institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), if applicable.
4. If you meet the criteria of a patient with suspected COVID-19, the doctor will contact the NICD who will send a tracker/tracer to your home to take a respiratory tract sample (e.g. nose or throat swab).
5. This swab will be taken for testing.
6. Results are forwarded within 24 hours.
7. If positive, the NICD in conjunction with your doctor will advise the quarantine procedures, etc.
8. NICD – would advise Respublica of further steps to be followed, including cleaning and decontamination procedures.
9. If you have any specific queries about the virus itself we suggest you make use of their hotline – **0800 029 999**
10. Respublica will keep students and the University abreast of any developments.

PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF RESIDENCE CLOSURE

Respublica will only take a decision to close in conjunction with advice from the NICD, University or other regulatory authority.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Respublica calls on the staff and student community to please stay informed by reading only reputable publications, websites, social media as well as the official website as per below:

- The Department of Health
- The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD).
- The World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Useful link of the World Economic Forum

Please also look out for further emails and communications on our notice boards around additional precautionary measures that may be introduced.

Kind Regards,

Respublica Management





- The Department of Health: <http://www.health.gov.za/>
- The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD).: <http://www.nicd.ac.za/>
- The World Health Organisation (WHO): <https://www.who.int/>



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