

MEDIAVERKLARING / PRESS RELEASE

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19 March 2020

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY PUTS MEASURES IN PLACE TO MITIGATE SPREAD OF COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Overstrand Municipality is promoting SOCIAL DISTANCING in an effort to slow down the spread of the virus in our community as much as possible. This is a conscious effort to reduce contact between people to slow down the spread of the virus.

The situation is being assessed on a daily basis and is subject to frequent and rapid change.

Overstrand has no confirmed cases of the Covid-19 virus infection so far.

Residents should take charge of their own safety. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into the crook of your arm, wash your hands thoroughly and frequently, and call your healthcare provider for advice if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty with breathing.

Municipal services will continue as normal until further notice. The situation is being assessed on a daily basis and is subject to frequent and rapid change.

The following steps to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 have been announced:

Overstrand Municipal Council Meetings after 25 March 2020 will be closed to the public.

Please note that municipal community meetings will also be postponed until further.

Tender site meetings will continue with the necessary precautions of social distancing adhered to and in halls big enough to accommodate up to a 100 people.

All public engagements, ward meetings, draft budget roadshows, First Thursdays and IDP and Budget-related public meetings are cancelled.

The draft Budget and IDP roadshows are cancelled, but the public still have the opportunity to comment, in writing, on Overstrand Municipality's Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review and Amendment for 2020/21, the draft 5th generation Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and the Draft Budget for 2020/21 until 28 April 2020.

The draft documents will be tabled in Council on 25 March 2020.

The documents are available for perusal during office hours at the offices of the Area Managers in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Kleinmond, in all the public libraries in the Overstrand, the Corporate Head Office of the municipality in Hermanus and on the municipality's website at www.overstrand.gov.za, click on the Documents and Strategic Documents tab to download the relevant documents.

Persons who cannot read or write and require assistance in compiling their comment, input or representations, may approach the offices of the Area Managers.

OVERSTRAND CARAVAN PARKS CLOSED:

In light of COVID-19 Coronavirus, and considering the safety of residents and visitors to the Overstrand, caravan parks will be closed to the public from 19 March 2020 until further notice. Overstrand Municipality will offer refund advance payments made.

LIBRARIES OPEN:

Overstrand libraries remain open. Library staff will work according to heightened hygiene requirements as well as social distancing as far as possible.

Library material and books on loan can be returned/dropped off as per normal. The libraries are open Mondays - Thursdays from 08:00 – 17:00 and Fridays from 08:00 - 16:30. The Hermanus Library will not be open on alternative Saturdays.

Renew library books online via the internet as follows:

- Go to the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za
- At the bottom of the page in the blue block you will see Main Menu - click on Web Links.
- Then click on 'Overstrand Libraries' and click on libraries (Brocade/Slims) again. Our desktop will open. Go to 'my library' and follow the instructions on how to renew you books
- Alternatively, go to wc.slims.gov.za/desktop/desktopwchephle

BEACHES AND NATURE RESERVES OPEN:

Visitors to all beaches and nature reserve are urged to make uses of the wide open spaces and fresh air. The nature reserves in Hermanus and Kleinmond will remain open unless further directives are received.

Visitors are urged to follow the guidelines issued by the South African National Department of Health and other agencies, and practice social distancing, hand washing and sneezing/coughing precautions.

CEMETERIES OPEN:

Cemeteries will remain open, although residents are advised to be mindful of the number of persons at the graveside during burial.

COMMUNITY HALLS AND SPORT FACILITIES:

- All bookings of events and gatherings which is considered to exceed 100 people in attendance are cancelled, with reimbursement
- Requests for bookings of events and gatherings which is considered to exceed 100 people in attendance shall not be approved until further notice
- Please practise social distancing of at least 1 meter

PUBLIC EVENTS TO BE HOSTED IN TERMS OF THE EVENTS BY-LAW:

- All approved events in terms of the by-law are cancelled until further notice

- No new applications shall be considered until further notice

HAWSTON SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX CLOSED:

- The Hawston Swimming Pool Complex is closed until further notice

DAY CAMPS CLOSED:

- Day camps and picnic spots will be closed to the public until further notice

MUNICIPAL OFFICES OPEN:

At this stage, all municipal offices remain open, however, strong precautions are being taken to ensure a heightened level of hygiene and social distancing.

It is advisable not to visit any of the municipal offices (including libraries, the rates hall and traffic services), unless absolutely necessary. Urgent matters, where possible, must be dealt with telephonically or via email.

The Traffic Department, including motor vehicle registration, roadworthy test centre and drivers' licencing etc are open and all eye testing equipment sanitised after each user.

The number of customers that are allowed time inside offices at the same, are reduced and will be firmly controlled. The public is reminded to practice social distancing of at least 1 meter.

In addition, customers are asked to use telephonic or online services to conduct their business. The Municipality encourages account holders to use online banking to pay accounts.

Again, please remember to stay at home if you are sick or feel sick, especially if you are running a fever or have been around someone running a fever. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and practise social distancing of at least 1 meter.

EFT PAYMENTS for municipal accounts:

Overstrand Municipality
Nedbank Account Number 1190136899
Branch Code: 198765

- This account is solely for the payment of monthly municipal accounts and the payment must include the 12-numerical digit account number as the reference.

EFT PAYMENTS for traffic fines:

Overstrand Municipality
Nedbank Account Number 1190137186
Type of account: Current Account
Branch Code: 198765

- This account is solely for the payment of Overstrand Municipality traffic fines and the payment must include the 10 to 16 alpha-numerical digit reference number indicated on the fine. Please note that the "/" must not be included in the reference number.

EFT PAYMENTS for other services:

Overstrand Municipality
Nedbank Account Number 1190136678
Type of account: Current Account
Branch Code: 198765

- This account is for the payment of fees such as licence renewal, building plans, new water and electricity connections, boat launching, town planning, etc. Clients are requested to obtain a reference number from the Municipality before depositing money in these instances.

PRE-PAID electricity:

Pre-paid electricity can also be bought online (home.ontec.co.za) or on your cell phone (download the app from the play store). Should you need assistance, phone Ontec, the new pre-paid electricity vendor at 0861 220 244 or servicedesk@ontec.co.za.

CORONAVIRUS:

People need to please stop spreading videos, messages and fake news regarding Covid-19 coronavirus. Check your sources directly.

You can also call your health practitioner for further advice on what to do next. Don't go to the doctor's office or the emergency room without calling ahead.

Further information on the Corona Virus can be obtained via the resources listed below:

- NATIONAL COVID-19 hotline on 0800 029 999.
- WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL COVID-19 HOTLINE on 021 928 4102
- WHATSAPP SUPPORT LINE 0600 123 456 - Put the number into your contacts and Whatsapp "Hi"
- For more information and the latest news on COVID-19, please visit:
<http://westerncape.gov.za/coronavirus>

CONTACT US:

- All municipal general enquiries can be directed to the Overstrand Switchboard on 028 313 8000.
- The 24-hour Emergency control room number for burst water pipes,etc is 028 313 8111.
- Any emergency and/or distress call regarding fires, drowning or accidents can be reported to the 24-hour FIRE & RESCUE emergency only number on 028 312 2400.
- Law enforcement 028 313 8996.
- Emails: enquiries@overstrand.gov.za