

Sent: 18 March 2020 10:38 AM

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: GARDEN ROUTE TESTING SITES AND NEW HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS

Importance: High



Media release

18 March 2020

GARDEN ROUTE TESTING SITES AND NEW HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS

Western Cape Government Health is adjusting in-hospital visiting protocol to limit the growing risk around the possible transmission of COVID-19. This adjustment is in line with the principles of social distancing to limit interaction and in doing so slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19.

- **Only 1 visitor per patient in all wards**
- **No rotation of visitors**
- **No children under 12 years**

When visiting any of our facilities, visitors can expect to be asked a number of questions (screened) before entry will be permitted. Patients who match the case definition for COVID-19 will be advised on what to do next.

HOW DOES IT WORK IN MY SUB-DISTRICT?

If you think you might have COVID-19 because you match the case definition, please call the NICD Hotline on 0800 029 999 or the Provincial Hotline on 021 928 4102. You will be advised what to do next. If you match the case definition and want to go to your health facility, please call them first to alert them that you will be visiting. They will advise you what to do next. Only people matching the case definition will be tested. You match the case definition for COVID-19 if you have a flu-like illness and have travelled to an area where COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in the community OR had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.

Knysna/Bitou subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at the facility where they present. All clinics in Knysna and Bitou as well as Knysna Hospital are able to test. Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19.

New Visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Please note that only the main entrance is available for public at Knysna Hospital.

George subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at all fixed clinics in George as well as George Hospital and at Haarlem-, Uniondale-, Herold Satellite Clinic and Uniondale Hospital.

Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19.

Harry Comay Hospital visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Uniondale visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

George hospital:

Patients who match the case definition will be tested . **Entrance 4** (pedestrian entrance, near main Admissions Department) **will be CLOSED** from today, **Wednesday, 18 March**, to allow closer monitoring and screening of persons coming into the hospital. Staff, visitors and patients are asked to use the EC entrance (Entrance 1) instead, where all patients and visitors will be screened. Unfortunately, this may create some delays for patients coming to hospital but these measures will help to protect staff and the public. As part of our plans to decongest the hospital and reduce the risk of the virus spreading to staff and patients, we are reducing outpatient clinic appointments and elective procedures. Patients will be contacted to advise them of these changes. Visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Mossel Bay subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at the following facilities: Alma Clinic, D'Almeida Clinic, Great Brak Clinic and Mossel Bay Hospital. Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19. New visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Hessequa subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at the facility (all clinics and Riversdale Hospital). Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19. New Visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Kannaland subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at Ladismith Clinic, Zoar Clinic, Amalienstein Clinic, Calitzdorp Clinic and Alan Blyth Hospital. Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19. New Visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

Oudtshoorn subdistrict

Patients who match the case definition will be tested for the virus at the facility (all clinics and Oudtshoorn Hospital). Please call the facility first if you think you might have COVID-19. New Visiting hours: 19:00 – 20:00

If you develop flu-like symptoms, do not panic. Please isolate yourself. This means you must have no direct contact with other people. Please call the National Coronavirus Hotline: 0800 029 999 or the Provincial hotline: 021 928 4102. For more information on how to isolate yourself, you can visit our website on www.westerncape.gov.za/coronavirus or WhatsApp "Hi" to 060 012 3456. You can also call your health practitioner for further advice on what to do next.

END

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