



PRESS RELEASE

SA Cares for Life, and COVID - 19. How it will effect our projects

Issued by Managing Director:

Sanet Fagan 17 March 2020

In every crisis situation, globally, you will always find the "helpers". You will always find people who are helping.
- Fred Rogers

Should you be aware of any child in need or danger, please call:

SA CARES EMERGENCY NUMBER:

060 997 5257

At **SA Cares for Life**, we believe we are, and will always be here to help the most vulnerable.

Here are our plan to combat Covid-19

1. **Communication:** The SA Cares for Life module is of such a nature that we have our staff living and positioned in the middle of each community we serve. So this enables us to have feet on the ground to observe and serve inside a community.

Each one of our staff members have a smart phone which enables them to receive and broadcast messages to communities, which is crucial for them to buy into the safety measures and to understand the Virus and the dangers.

We have allocated and identified translators in order to translate important broadcast messages into languages to ensure everyone gets the message and understands the message

2. **Nutrition:** As we are aware that many of our children are suffering from malnutrition which could negatively impact them during the Covid-19 time, we partnered with Spar to ensure a healthy nutritional A+ Porridge are distributed to the children in all our communities. All you need to do is mix it with a bit of water or milk, and you have a nutritious meal.

3. **Health:** We have placed containers to assist medical teams with additional clinic space, in order to screen community members with symptoms.

Washbasins are made and placed in the different communities with soap supplied, so they can wash hands, and also the hands of the children.

We are assisting with transport options should any of our children urgently need to get to the hospital/ clinic as a confirmed Covid-19 patient.

4. **Food support:** We have supplied a container, with stock of the nutritional A+ porridge, to 4 sites in the Pretoria area, in order to assist with families, identified as possible Covid 19 carriers to be able to self isolate.

5. Children with HIV, or specific illnesses will be assisted to receive their medication.

6. ECD's and Day Cares have closed until the 14th of April 2020, at which time, we will open again, and continue with our educational curriculum. Mothers are encouraged to follow the strict and necessary hygiene steps to keep themselves and their children safe with Sanitiser and ideas on washing clothing and bodies.

4. Working in vegetable gardens have been stopped for now, since social distancing has been instructed by our President. Vegetables and Food packs will be delivered to our beneficiaries to aid them with keeping up a good immune system.

5. Home visits to families in need, for the sake of parental training and emotional guidance and assistance in this time, will not take place in person, but instead we will broadcast information, ideas, and steps around Covid 19 prevention and how to handle your children and hygiene via videos and messages for people to receive on their mobile phones, as far as possible.

5. Abba House, has been kept in isolation, with no visitors, in order to keep the little ones safe.

6. Any questions regarding an upcoming visit, please connect with sanet@sacares.co.za, to discuss possibility and permissions.

7. We are working in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, to ensure a support structure when we find a child in need and in danger, and are monitoring guidance around protocol and the correct actions expected from us, from our Government and Medical Institutions.

8. Families of our foster children have been adequately briefed, and support provided during these times. Social Services are seen as an essential service, so there is a team of social workers on call to assist.

9. Our administration and support staff, are working from home, and we continue to connect and plan our projects via Zoom meetings twice weekly.

Should anyone have more questions, concerns or ideas, on how we can best combat the Corona Virus, and support our families, please connect with us.