



# Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



## From the Estate Manager

### Covid 19 Epidemic – Level 1 Thatchfield HOA

Our President announced that South Africa is now on level 1 as from 21 September 2020. In short, everyone's lives are back to normal after almost 6 months. I want to thank each resident for their co-operation during this difficult time which also called for drastic measures.

The THOA is open and we had to adjust our hours to make provisions for regular sanitizing and sterilizing of our offices and equipment. The infection rate with the Covid 19 virus is still dangerously high.

Due to the high infection rate, I still have a responsibility towards my staff and residents. The THOA Office is running with full staff. We would like to bring the following arrangements to your attention:

No resident/contractor/domestic/gardener/agent or visitor will be permitted to visit the Thatchfield Office without making an appointment with the relevant staff member. Should you wish to:

- Register or extend your domestic/gardeners/transport services contract, please email Lucy at: [admin3@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:admin3@thatchfield.co.za). Lucy will assist you and guide you with necessary info required to register the above.
- To register new residents, tenants and all biometrics related queries you can email Lizette at: [admin2@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:admin2@thatchfield.co.za).
- For all estate agents registrations, plans, general THOA enquiries and Thatchfield Ridge registrations please email Carien at: [admin@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:admin@thatchfield.co.za)
- Any complaints, disputes, gardening concerns can be addressed with our Deputy Estate Manager Vuyo at: [deputy@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:deputy@thatchfield.co.za)

■ Any security related incidents and urgent matters, complaints, inquiries for Fibre, City of Tshwane related problems, power, waste, streetlights, poor water pressure, approval of plans, illegal water and electricity connections, estate related disputes, Gautrain inquiries, projects, neighbours disputes can be addressed with myself at: [estatemanager@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:estatemanager@thatchfield.co.za).

Please note that the policy of no mask no entry will still apply and every person visiting our offices will undergo a temperature test at the THOA offices.

### Sporting Facilities

Our sporting facilities are open. Tennis and the basket/netball court is open with conditions that will be discussed with you when you book at our offices. No person will be permitted to use our facilities without booking at Thatchfield Control Room on 0126611952 or 0736971990. Also note that our sporting ground rules will be applied strictly by our security team. Familiarize yourself with our rules as signs were placed all around our sporting grounds.

Visitors to our sporting facilities must be accompanied by a resident. No bookings will be accepted on behalf of a resident. Our sporting facilities are strictly for Thatchfield residents only. Cards will be made for all our sports lovers to identify yourself to our security team. Sports lights stay on until 20:00.

Should you want to play any games on the fields, please clear these with the Estate Managers first.

Our ablution facility are open during practice hours. Please respect and look after our facility. Keep it tidy and leave it as you found it.

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### Compost for gardening

I have received a few complaints from residents throughout the estate complaining about their neighbours using fertilizer which has a strong odour. Please consider your neighbours when you are applying fertilizers to your gardens. Use fertilizers that are estate friendly and have no odour.

### Abuse of Security Guards

We have a great security team, compared to other estates. Fidelity Security Services trains guards on site and every guard writes a test before he/she undergoes a site induction by the training officer on site.

Our Duty/Armed response officers are responsible for patrols and outer perimeter patrols like our boundary walls. All our managers wear body cameras and our vehicles movement are tracked and video monitored as they are fitted with cameras. When incidents are reported to our security personnel, our managers investigate and record these incidents. Racial comments and threats towards our guards will not be tolerated.

The security officers are here to protect us. Residents and visitors to our estate cannot verbally attack the very same people who are looking after our wellbeing.

Please let us stop this behaviour as a community and respect the officers serving us. Should there be a problem/incident, please report it to me so that

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I can address and resolve it. I will give you feedback on the outcome.

### Fibre in Thatchfield he/she

Fibre installation in Thatchfield Hills and Close is completed. Open Serve was appointed to do the installations of Fibre by Telkom for the whole of Thatchfield.

I spoke to Open Serve representatives for Thatchfield and was informed that they appointed Huawei to continue with the fibre roll out programme in Thatchfield Glen, Gardens, Manor, and Crescent. The project should be completed by the end of December 2020.

The fibre line installed by Open Serve is an open line. You will be able to use any company of your choice on their preferred suppliers list. Starting date is still to be confirmed; however, all indications are that fibre installations within Thatchfield Estate are set for October 2020.

(Please see the Board Chair's piece on Fibre below.)

### Noise pollution

Our Thatchfield HOA Rules of Conduct (Rule 1.8.5 Disturbances) reads as follow:

1. The volume of music or the playing of musical instruments, and holding of parties, by owners/residents or domestic staff must be limited to a level which will not cause a disturbance to neighbours, and must cease at 22:00 on Sunday to Thursday, and at 24:00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

After these times noise must not be audible outside the residence.

2. Owners/Members must address complaints of disturbances to the person causing such disturbances, to the municipality (METRO) or SAPS. Any noise above 6.5 decibels is considered a disturbance.

According to the Criminal Procedure Act, noise pollution can be reported any time of day and the Act gives no time frame.

My plea to our community is that should you intent to host a party or

event, please inform your neighbours. Be considerate please. Homeowners/residents remain responsible for their visitors' behaviour.

I have created a proforma and handed it to security to issue to residents/members who are not behaving. The letter will also inform you that you need to act and comply with security's requests. All incidents are recorded in our Thatchfield Control Room Occurrence Book.

The THOA also has a set rules of penalties to be used on regular offenders. In cases where there are tenants in your property, the penalties will be forwarded to the homeowner for attention and implementation. Your tenants' behaviour is still your responsibility. When you rent out your property, please make sure that the tenants get a copy of the THOA Rules of Conduct. ■

## From the Board Chairman



### Fibre installation in Thatchfield

It is important to note that the Homeowners Association has nothing at all to do with the fibre installation within Thatchfield.

We understand that recently there has been a lot of frustration surrounding this but any dissatisfaction must

be directed at the service providers concerned and not at the THOA.

All the internal roads in Thatchfield belong to Tshwane and as such any fibre company would have approached them for a wayleave to install fibre.

However, Telkom historically owned all the underground sleeves in Thatchfield from the outset which they used initially for ADSL and landlines. They are now using these same sleeves for their Openserve fibre, and in doing so they are disconnecting existing ADSL customers!

Their fibre roll out has been extremely slow as the initial take-up by residents was very disappointing, which made their project unviable.

It was only after lockdown that residents signed up in droves and we have now been informed by Openserve that they will complete the fibre installation throughout Thatchfield by December.

The installation of the required sleeves from the fibre in the street to the inside of homes is the responsibility of each homeowner. ■

As they say:

## The New Norm

Don't take a trip to the office, google us on [www.thatchfield.co.za](http://www.thatchfield.co.za) for questions and answers, easy access to HOA documents and other information!

You can also contact us on  
**012 661 1952**



# From the Deputy Estate Manager



## Waste Dumping

Thatchfield is faced with the challenge of some residents who perceive dumping of their household or garden

waste into other residents' municipal bins as acceptable. This behaviour is not acceptable, neither is it permitted by the estate or municipality. Even if

your bin is full or you do not have a bin, you are still not allowed to dump your waste into other residents' municipal bins. Residents without bins should apply for a bin with the City Of Tshwane, and whilst they are waiting for their bins to be delivered residents can take their waste to one of the nearest official dumping sites. On the same note, residents are also requested to stop dumping waste on the empty stands or empty households within the Estate. Those are people's properties. Should anyone be caught doing illegal dumping, then the law will take its course. Let us respect each other as residents and continue building a peaceful neighbourhood.

Please note that our closest dumping site is the Rooihuiskraal Mini Garden Dumpsite, next to the Historical Terrain, along Rooihuiskraal Road.

## Plea to residents to use water sparingly

The THOA is making a plea to all Thatchfield residents with regards to the daily usage of water. Water shortage has become a reality in South Africa in the past few years; we have all seen protests all around our country about water shortage, or no water at all. Our water resources are dwindling, even the water levels are very low at the Vaal Dam. At the time of this article, Rand Water recorded water

levels as Percentage: 34.5%; Level: 15.31; Volume: 898.8; Flow: 18 and Rainfall: 0. This alone suggests that water shortage is a serious challenge, hence we need to ensure that each one of us plays an active role in preserving the little water we have access to. It is very disheartening to see some fellow residents wasting water, breaking all the water conservation rules, and showing disrespect when cautioned by either their fellow residents or by Thatchfield management. Water shortage is real in Thatchfield and it is affecting all of us, therefore we are submitting a sincere plea to everyone: please use water wisely. ■



# Medipark24: Vaccinations and the Pandemic



Vaccines has become a hot topic during the COVID-19 pandemic. Firstly, because the development of a vaccine for SARS-COV-2, the virus causing COVID-19,

is the quickest and most efficient method to conquer this pandemic. Secondly, the pandemic has caused patients to neglect standard vaccination protocols, especially in children, due to fear of visiting healthcare facilities.

The worldwide race for developing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is on and South Africa is also participating in several Phase 3 clinical trials. According to local and international authorities, these vaccines will become available from mid- to late-2021. Vaccinating an entire planet against a novel virus will be one of the greatest public health efforts in history and would need the cooperation of governments, communities, and individuals.

Vaccines have been essential in eradicating or preventing life-altering diseases over the past few decades, but lately, they've come under fire. Here are some FACTS about vaccines:

■ **VACCINES ARE ESSENTIAL.** The truth is that vaccines have been essential to reducing rates of childhood illnesses. Before vaccines, 25 per cent of children died before the age of 5 from pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, pertussis, or rubella, among other diseases. Millions of people suffered paralysis, deafness, and brain damage from these diseases. Although standards of sanitation and nutrition have improved the lives of children, vaccines were responsible for a dramatic decrease in childhood infectious diseases after vaccines became widespread in the 1960s. Before vaccinations, the risks of measles, whooping cough, and polio were very high, and the benefits of vaccines far outweighed the risks. Now that the threat of these diseases has disappeared (because of vaccines), the risks of the vaccines seem high to some people.

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**VACCINES ARE SAFE.** The truth is that vaccines are very safe for almost everyone. In fact, they have fewer side effects than any drug. There are risks associated with vaccination, including redness around the injection site and a mild fever. In very rare cases, a child can have an allergic reaction to a vaccine, which is why they should be monitored for an immediate reaction or a rash for a few days after being vaccinated. This kind of reaction doesn't give children allergies or make them sick in any other way, but it is a sign that they have a sensitivity to something in the vaccine itself and should be given a specially formulated vaccine or avoid that type of vaccine in the future. All claims that vaccines are linked with autism or intestinal inflammation have been thoroughly debunked. The levels of thiomersal and aluminium found in vaccines have not been shown to cause adverse effects in humans or animals, but thiomersal was removed from most vaccines in 2001 as a precautionary measure because it does contain mercury.

**HERD IMMUNITY FUNCTIONS TO PROTECT THOSE THAT DO NOT HAVE A FUNCTIONING IMMUNE SYSTEM, NOT THOSE THAT CHOOSE**

**TO NOT BE IMMUNISED.** *Herd immunity* is when enough of the population is immune that others who are not immune are still protected because the pathogen can't pass between people. Herd immunity protects people who are not immune, which is why it is so important for the majority of people to be immune to a pathogen so that those in society who cannot get vaccinated, like the elderly and the sick, come into contact with the pathogen less often. As more people choose not to get vaccinated, pockets of susceptible hosts for the pathogen open up, giving the virus or bacteria a chance to move through a population.

To keep yourself and your loved ones safe, make sure that you and your children's vaccination schedules are up to date. It is our duty to the weakest members of our communities to be vaccinated! For more information or to enquire about a specific vaccine you can contact Medipark24 on 0126615528 or your local pharmacy. Please follow our Facebook page to be kept up to date on future developments regarding COVID-19 vaccines and possible vaccine drives. ■

**Why should adolescents and adults be vaccinated?**

Did you know... The protection you receive from childhood vaccines is not lifelong!<sup>1</sup>

In recent outbreaks of pertussis, adolescents and adults have accounted for the majority of the cases reported.<sup>2</sup> The greatest morbidity and mortality rates are in infants <12 months of age due to infants being too young to be vaccinated.<sup>3</sup>

Pertussis incidence is increasing in older age groups, as immunity acquired through childhood vaccination declines.<sup>4</sup>

Adolescents and adults may suffer from pertussis infection that can lead to complications.<sup>5</sup>

The protection conferred by childhood vaccinations against major vaccine-preventable diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio, wanes over time.<sup>6,7</sup>

Without a booster dose, the adult population becomes at risk of infection.<sup>8</sup>

**Adults can be at risk of severe and potentially fatal major vaccine-preventable diseases<sup>9,10</sup>**

Did you know... There is limited treatment against these 4 severe, and potentially fatal infectious diseases<sup>11,12</sup>

**Tetanus<sup>13</sup>** Tetanus is a frequently fatal infection caused by a toxin released from bacteria. It can be prevented by a booster dose that is usually given in the adult and geriatric population to maintain immunity.

**Diphtheria<sup>14</sup>** Diphtheria is a potentially severe disease, caused by a toxin released from bacteria. It can be prevented by a booster dose that is usually given in the adult and geriatric population to maintain immunity.

**Pertussis<sup>15</sup>** Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection that is spread through close contact such as kissing, coughing or sneezing.

**Polio<sup>16,17</sup>** Polio is a highly contagious disease that can cause paralysis. It is spread through close contact such as kissing, coughing or sneezing.

Vaccination is one of the best forms of protection against major infectious diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio.

**ADOLESCENTS & ADULTS** Booster Vaccine

Ask your doctor about the pertussis booster vaccine for adolescents and adults.

**Booster vaccination helps adolescents and adults stay healthy, by preventing serious infections**

Did you know... By getting vaccinated, you can help ensure you don't spread severe diseases to your family and loved ones.<sup>1</sup>

**Remember to ask your doctor about any boosters you may need**

Last time you were vaccinated, you were probably learning your ABCs!

A booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis is recommended for the following groups:<sup>2</sup>

- Any adult whose last booster was 10 or more years ago<sup>3</sup>
- Women of childbearing age should receive a pertussis booster vaccine before pregnancy, or as soon as possible after delivery, if not breastfeeding<sup>4</sup>
- All adults in close contact with infants (including grandparents, childcare workers) should receive a pertussis booster vaccine at least two weeks before the baby is born<sup>5</sup>
- All healthcare professionals with direct patient contact<sup>6</sup>

**Booster vaccination is also important for adolescents and adults**

- Immunity wanes over time, so you may no longer be protected against diseases which you were previously immunised against<sup>7</sup>
- Vaccination is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family against infectious diseases<sup>8</sup>

Ask your doctor about the recommended adolescent and adult booster vaccine

**ADOLESCENTS & ADULTS** Booster Vaccine

Ask your doctor about the pertussis booster vaccine for adolescents and adults.



## From the Editor's Desk

Hope you find this September 2020 Issue of our community newsletter informative. Please be reminded to email any issues or events you want us to cover to: [editor@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:editor@thatchfield.co.za) (Attention Alison Ziki). You can also Whatsapp on 082 084 4839 if you need an interview.

As we ease into Level 1 of the lockdown, I want to use this opportunity to share some details about regulations around this 'new normal'.

**Social, religious and other gatherings are permitted with the following conditions:**

- The number of people in any venue must not exceed 50% of its normal capacity
- A maximum limit of 250 people applies to indoor gatherings
- Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

**International travelers must meet the following requirements to ensure safety**

- On arrival, travellers will need to present a negative COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours from time of departure
- All travellers will be screened on arrival and those presenting with symptoms will be required to have a COVID test
- Where necessary, travellers will need to enter mandatory quarantine facilities at their own cost
- Travellers will be asked to download the COVID Alert South Africa mobile app

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

**The following restrictions will remain in place to prevent the spread of the virus**

- The number of people allowed in a retail store, restaurant, cinema or other public space remains limited to 50% of its normal capacity to prevent the spread of the virus
- Gatherings may not exceed 50% of venue capacity, with a maximum limit of 250 indoors and 500 outdoors
- Masks must be worn in public places and social distancing must be maintained

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

**Borders will be opened for international travel from 1 October, subject to the following conditions:**

- Travel may be restricted to and from certain countries that are deemed high risk
- Only King Shaka International, OR Tambo International and Cape Town International airports will be open for international flights
- A limited number of border posts will remain open at South Africa's land borders

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

### What exactly is best practice when it comes to the wearing of facemasks for children?

As South Africa's economy opens up and different places like restaurants, cinemas, and beauty salons start operating again, we will all go to these public spaces, including school, in the context of a new normal involving mask-wearing and social distancing. So as we wear masks, many parents are dealing with questions around what is best practice when it comes to our children wearing masks.

This is what is recommended when it comes to children and wearing of masks:

- According to the **Centre for Disease Control** recommendation, masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2.



**Child wearing mask and shield**

- Choose the right mask size for your child. "Pleated face coverings with elastic are likely to work best for kids. Try to find the right size for your child's face and be sure to adjust it for a secure fit," says The American Academy of Paediatrics.
- Also, consider face shields for children with respiratory issues. Dr. Jennifer Shu, a certified paediatrician, and spokeswoman for the American Academy of Paediatrics says: "Face shields could be a good alternative for children with respiratory ailments like asthma or cystic fibrosis." ■

(Source: <https://citizen.co.za/parenty/2304722/the-guidelines-for-children-wearing-masks/>)

## Exam Tips

### Grade 12 Study Tips for the final examinations – considering the impact of COVID-19

First and foremost, no matter how big the impact of the Covid-19, the basics will stay the same:

- Stay calm: Stress is your biggest enemy!
- Time management: One of the biggest and most important factors. Use time available to you wisely. Use a study timetable; plan and strategize and most of all: be organized!
- Eat healthy, go for walks, take short breaks and sleep well. Yes, everyone is expecting you to work hard, put in the long hours and even do an all-nighter every now and then. But also look after yourself – do not burn out.
- Create an environment conducive for studying: no distractions, loud noises or interruptions. Put away your cellphone, close the door...and study! If you use music, research the correct type of music, it can do wonders to help you study!
- Use past exam papers (IEB) to help you revise and test your knowledge.
- Use technology available to you (a platform like Microsoft Teams) to help you contact fellow learners or ask your teachers questions. Do not suffer in silence!
- Use techniques like a family member quizzing you or study groups with fellow learners to help mixing it up a little bit and to test yourself.
- Make sure about your exam dates and times.
- Remember, you are working towards a goal here. Maybe it is time to write it down again now and put it on your wall – whether you are going on a gap year, going to work or study medicine – so that you are reminded of why you are doing this.
- Be motivated, positive and strong. Another enemy is negativity and an attitude of giving up.

Secondly...

Yes, Covid-19 did happen this year, and gave all of us a curve ball no one saw coming. It brought so many challenges for you as Grade 12 learners, and you had to cope with this. Do not let this become your identifier. Do not let this become your excuse or the reason dreams

and goals were not achieved. Please speak up when things get too difficult. A person's mental health is just as important.

Finally: Remember, you have your whole family and every single teacher behind you on this, you can do it! ■

## Temporary Classes for 2021

**Grades 1 to 3**  
Has COVID-19 put your child at a disadvantage with academics this year? Curro Thatchfield is piloting the need for learners who need additional academic support to be placed in smaller classes in 2021 with a maximum of 18 learners per class.

**Services include**

- A full-time teacher and teacher assistant per grade (Grades 1 to 3)
- An educational psychologist (one session per week)
- Occupational therapy (one session per week)
- Speech therapy (one session per week)

**Applications**  
A once-off screening fee will be charged (non-refundable) for the assessments. Your child can be assessed by the school's educational psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech therapist. Please contact the school office for the fees. If outside providers are being used, current and comprehensive assessment reports will be required for the screening process. Your child's placement will be confirmed or declined after the screening process has been completed.

**School fees for 2021**  
Monthly fees of R7 239, which includes therapy.

**Enquiries**  
Please contact Zimkita at [zimkita.n@curro.co.za](mailto:zimkita.n@curro.co.za) for more information on the screening process.  
**Closing date for applications:** Friday, 30 October 2020

**#Learners2Leaders**

Starting date for new academic year: 13 January 2021

[www.curro.co.za](http://www.curro.co.za)

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