



# Methodist Homes

Providing affordable, secure and caring accommodation and services to the elderly

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## Press Release

### Methodist Homes encourages families to digitally connect with elderly loved ones over the Festive Season to keep them safe

“We are by now all very familiar with the Coronavirus and all its health risk implications and safety protocols which makes it a particularly treacherous time because it is so easy to become complacent and the season is synonymous with coming together ,” warns CEO of Methodist Homes for the Aged, Carl Queiros. “It is vital that during the Festive Season we continue to adhere strictly to all the safety regulations by wearing our face masks, washing our hands regularly, using hand sanitiser and respecting social distancing.”

Statistics make it undeniably clear that the elderly, the frail and people with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes are at a significantly higher risk of infection. When Government announced the first lockdown at midnight on 26 March 2020, Methodist Homes management reacted swiftly and decisively, implementing rigorous measures at all 15 retirement villages (12 in Gauteng and 3 in the North West Province) to protect residents and staff.

“We are responsible for the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all the elderly in our care and we would be failing in our duty if we did not continue to apply stringent measures to protect the safety of our residents as well as our staff over the holidays,” continues Carl. While it is completely understandable that families want to take their loved-ones home for the holidays, Methodist Homes warns strongly against this. COVID-19 is extremely infectious which means that any infected resident returning to a Methodist Homes village will put all the other residents and staff at risk. “This is a difficult decision for us to make as we know how greatly we value the presence of our elderly parents during Christmas / the Festive Season, but we have to consider and protect the safety of all as the consequences of the possible spread of the virus at a village could be severe. However, that does not mean there can be no communication between families because there are so many user-friendly digital platforms available on smart devices that connect people, both audibly and visually.

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We want to encourage families to please make use of these platforms to engage with their elderly loved ones as often as possible over the Festive Season. Despite the distance, an online connection like this can make all the difference and help to lift the spirits to an elderly person.”

Given that fewer residents are going home and with a lot more frail residents remaining at Methodist Homes nine Care Centres over this time than is the norm, it is going to be a very busy time for Methodist Homes’ dedicated nurses and care workers. “A special thanks must go to this passionate and committed team who is going that proverbial extra mile to take care of not only the elderly residents’ physical wellness but also, most importantly, their mental well-being. A few activities and some pampering await our residents to make them feel that extra special.”

“I would like to assure our residents’ families and loved ones that we will do everything that is necessary so that all of our residents remain protected, are treated with dignity and respect and feel comfortable and safe at all times because this is their home. On behalf of the Methodist Homes management team, a Blessed, peaceful and joyous Festive Season to all our residents, their loved ones and staff. May you all stay safe and healthy,” concludes Carl.