



20 March 2020

Dear supporters of HfH,

Home from Home's initial response to the Coronavirus

In the few days that have passed since the announcement from our President of the national disaster that is COVID-19, the fear and panic that has gripped the nation is very evident. We are very aware that the panic response can lead to many unhelpful and sometimes damaging reactions, but also cognizant that certain protective and precautionary measures are crucial to follow.

In this regard, we have taken on the advice of government, which is given on their WhatsApp number of 060 012345. Also, we are using the documents circulated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and those by the Western Cape Health Department.

To this end we are instituting social distancing where we have cancelled all large meetings of Foster Mothers and children. We are encouraging communication via telephonic or internet forms and where physical meetings are absolutely necessary, we will limit these in number.

We are also intensifying the hygienic measures taken as suggested by the above authorities on this matter. We will supply each of our homes with hand sanitizers and masks and will be providing education and monitoring on the standards that are maintained at each of our homes in this regard. Ongoing information sharing will happen as the situation changes and new measures need to be put in place.

One of our key concerns is how exercising social distancing will affect the support of our foster homes in this crisis. The coming together in Metro Meetings and Foster Mother's forums has been central to this support. While all our mothers have cell phones, few of the homes have computers linked to the internet or Wi-Fi facilities. Will the use of the electronic media we have be sufficient to adequately support these homes in this extra vulnerable time?

Going forward it is very likely that infections will increase dramatically in SA and that this longer school holiday will not suddenly remedy the problem, but that we will need to have intensified our efforts and measures to fight this disease.

Like most, we at Home from Home are requiring support and help in order to ensure that we can still provide quality care to children who are of the most vulnerable in our communities, especially during

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Managing Trustees: Prof. Andrew Dawes (Chairperson) • Anna Vayanos (Vice Chairperson)

• Deepa Daya (Treasurer) • Dr. Thulane Gxubane (Trustee) • Winifred Brock (Trustee) • Louise Driver (Trustee)



this time of crisis. We have committed to a plan in response to this crisis, but remain flexible to regularly assessing and changing where necessary.

Although children and young people are not generally in the high risk category, it should be noted that more than 25% of our children are immunocompromised and therefore at greater risk. In addition to this, many of our foster mothers, who are older, fall into a high risk category, having underlying health issues such as hypertension, diabetes or other chronic conditions. Protecting both our children AND foster parents is of primary importance.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for more specific information on how you can assist us.

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