COVID-19
Caring at home

Please don’t panic. Most people with COVID-19 have mild-moderate symptoms and can be safely treated at home. People with severe symptoms or who can’t safely isolate at home will be referred to a facility.

Home care is only recommended if you:
• Have mild-moderate symptoms
• Have a separate room
• Have access to a bathroom, kitchen and washing machine
• Have someone healthy to care for you
• Can easily stay in touch with your healthcare provider

This information applies to:
– A person with confirmed COVID-19
– A person awaiting test results
– A person who has been identified as a close contact with someone with COVID-19

Move all these people to separate rooms or sections of a home. They should have no contact with others in the home.

Homes with more than one person needing to be separated need to house people separately. If this is not possible contact your healthcare provider or Provincial Hotline.

For people awaiting results, this will be about 2 days.
• If the results are negative they can move around freely.
• If the results are positive the person needs to be separated from the rest of the household for 14 days. This also applies to contacts.

Do not leave the home. Arrange with friends and your community to drop groceries, meals and medicines at the door. If not possible, then a healthy caregiver may leave the home for essential trips only, using the 5 Golden Rules of Good Hygiene and a mask.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.westerncape.gov.za
Home care advice

Everyone
Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Throw away the tissue into a closed bin.
Look after your mental health. Stay in touch with family and friends via phone.

Caregiver
Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.
Leave food for person separated because of COVID-19 at the door. Ask about symptoms regularly. Remove waste and dirty laundry.
Use dedicated items like dishes, towels and bedding for the ill person. After use, wash well. Wash clothing, linen and cloth masks at 60-100 degrees. Iron or tumble dry.
‘Double-bag’ rubbish and store for 5 days before putting out for collection.

Caregivers and others should monitor themselves for symptoms.
• Symptoms include cough, fever, aching muscles, sore throat and difficulty breathing.
• If any symptoms develop, contact your healthcare provider or phone the Provincial Hotline.

Person separated because of COVID-19
Rest, drink plenty of fluids, eat healthy food and use paracetamol for fever or pain.
Stay in a separate room and use a separate bathroom if possible. Open doors and windows.
If well enough, make your bed, and set aside rubbish and dirty laundry.
Wear a mask as advised by a healthcare provider.
Document your symptoms (difficulty breathing, chest pain, diarrhoea) and temperature twice a day. If symptoms worsen or persist beyond 7 days, contact your healthcare provider or Provincial Hotline.

Only stop separation in consultation with your healthcare provider or Provincial Hotline.

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