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COVID-19 – CMEFS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Hello. I do hope that this week's edition of our newsletter finds you and your family as well as can be.

COVID-19

Eish. What more can be said on this subject?

It is to some a non-event and others a matter of life and death.

We just do not know who, exactly.

And here in South Africa, our infection rates continue to sky-rocket and predictions have it that they will only get worse in the months to come before we hit our peak and the curve starts to turn downwards.

I have to wonder just how many lives will have been lost by then, and will I or someone I love very dearly be part of this statistic, despite every precaution having been taken?

Only time will tell.

The initial period of the lock-down was to give the government sufficient time to prepare for the storm that is here, and the greater storm that is still to come.

We all agreed with this idea and bought into it and behaved ourselves accordingly.

Now we find ourselves having to be without cigarettes (why?) and alcohol. This because alcohol-related incidents are taking up much-needed beds – surely this should have been planned for in the initial stages – was this not what the original lock-down was for?

Outside of any other considerations, I fear for the effect that these bans will have on the economy of South Africa, both in the short and long-term, as I do not see them being lifted any time soon if the Coronavirus Command Council is to have its way.

It's tough. Very tough. As at the end of the day we are asking ourselves just what exactly a life (any life) is worth?

We simply cannot afford to shut the economy down permanently, but in allowing it to operate as best it can in the current environment we are placing lives at risk.

And this consideration needs to be balanced against how many lives will be lost due to starvation, malnutrition, suicide, deaths of despair (e.g. drug overdoses as a result of not being able to find meaningful work), not seeking medical attention when one should have for fear of catching the virus or just plain old loneliness.

Just how do we tally this count against the deaths by Coronavirus count?

I have absolutely no idea.

I have to wonder though if somehow the US is not by accident (certainly not by design given the prevailing chaos there) “getting it right” by “allowing” the virus to spread as rapidly and uncontrollably as it now is throughout the US.

Certain college fraternities in the US are having Coronavirus parties where they get together as a group, put money in a hat, invite someone who is Covid-19 positive to the party, and then actively try and become infected with it. The first one to become infected wins the bounty.

Would this constitute irresponsible behavior on their part if part of the reason they are doing it for is to obtain the necessary anti-bodies to the virus without great risk to themselves, to enjoy greater freedom as well as freedom from anxiety?

I guess the answer would be both a yes and a no, depending on whether they then placed themselves in quarantine immediately after such parties, thus posing no risk to others who might be more at risk should they contract the virus.

In any event, it seems that large swathes of the US population now have the virus, although still not enough to build the necessary herd immunity.

A further consideration in the US is that a survey showed that up to 1/3 of persons in the US would choose not to be vaccinated against the virus as/when/if a vaccine eventually comes along.

And if you are as confused as I am right now over the whole question of an effective vaccine against the virus being found given the nature of the virus (for Corona read Flu) welcome to the club!

Some experts say that at best, it will not be more than 65% effective, and even then, much like having to be vaccinated every year against the ‘new’ strain of flu virus that arrives with us every year as a result of the virus mutating annually, so too will we need to be vaccinated annually against the “new” strain of coronavirus that will also be mutating – apparently as it currently is.

But I am not an epidemiologist and I have no idea what I am talking about and can only repeat what I have heard, but what I would not give for some clarity on the issue.

Not only do I have personal concerns like everyone else, but I am trying to keep a business going at the same time, and the lack of certainty in so far as knowledge and time-lines are concerned is certainly not helping from a planning point of view.

And now we have the taxis and shebeens taking the government on “head-on” in so far as taxi passenger occupancy rates and the ban on the sale of alcohol are concerned.

These are both powerful industry lobbies and government is going to have to keep a really cool head if it is going to circumnavigate these choppy waters.

We simply cannot afford further social unrest at this time.

What challenging times!

That’s all for now and I trust you enjoyed the read.

Nine sends love and thoughts to all, as always.

Until next time then, from all of us at CMEFS, do take good care of yourselves. Kind regards. Charles.

Name	Division	Cell Number	Detail
Alicia	Wealth	063 434 8074	Learner. Servicing attaching to the following classes of business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Andrew	Wealth	063 321 7399	Intern. New business and servicing. Medical Aids & GAP Cover. In the process of migrating across to the Wealth Division.
Andrisha	Wealth	063 378 1473	Representative. New business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Bernelee	Tax	078 708 4536	Administrator providing admin support to Geraldine and understudy to Geraldine.
Brady	Wealth	071 843 3933	Representative. New business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Felicia	Risk	071 880 9576	Learner. Servicing attaching to Short-Term insurance, assisting Stella. Starting to obtain some exposure to Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.
Geraldine	Tax	083 754 1699	Head of tax division.
Jamie	Wealth	071 850 1389	Learner. Core responsibility being to produce and send out the monthly investment statements and to handle any queries connected to them. Satellite responsibility to assist where possible in the Wealth Division.
Luh	Bookkeeping	063 102 3313	Head of Bookkeeping Division. Professional Accountant (SA) SAIPA 30345
Nadean	Tax	063 026 1351	Intern. Administrator providing admin support to Bernelee and understudy to Bernelee.
Siso	Risk	060 376 6605	Learner. Starting to obtain some exposure to Short-Term insurance Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.

Stella	Risk	078 784 6462	Head of Short-Term Insurance Division.
Terisha	Books	071 858 3373	Intern. Bookkeeping Division. Data Capture and other functions relating to the bookkeeping Division.
Thabo	Risk	078 004 3864	Learner. Starting to obtain some exposure to Short-Term insurance Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.