



CMEFS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13-11-2020

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

OK, so Joe Biden has clearly won the race and will be the next President of the United States of America, despite all the rumblings and grumbings being made of electoral fraud by those engaged in the Trump campaign.

This being said, one cannot help but notice just how close the race was, with both candidates receiving around 50% each of the total popular vote. (50.9% for Biden and 47.5% for Trump the last time I looked.)

There are to me just so many things that are surprising about this margin, not least of which is confirmation of just how divided America is.

It is clearly a nation that is at war with itself given that the Republicans and Democrats are diametric opposites to one another, with no love being lost between them.

One has to wonder just how much more they could get done if they could find a way to work together rather than try to obstruct one another in whatever it is they are trying to achieve.

What a shame.

Further to this, however, having watched most of the race on television, given the importance of the outcome to the rest of the world including us, I am coming away from the experience wondering just what has happened to objective news reporting, if there ever was such a thing, that is.

When looking at the FOX news channel or example, all of the reporting was clearly slanted in favour of the Trump campaign, whereas switching over to CNN the exact opposite was true.

And then of course you have all the fake news sloshing about on social media, with many users preferring to believe what they read on social media rather than turn to more "reliable" news sources.

But can one blame them for doing so if they have the same experience of (say) the Fox/CNN news channels as I did?

In so far as the SA media is concerned, I have long complained that they love to sensationalise with more often than not misleading headlines, along with being overly negative about anything South African.

If the SA media are to be believed, we are all doomed, have little or no future, we are unable to do anything right at all, with absolutely nothing going right, so no wonder so many decide to do the proverbial “pack for Perth” thing, thinking that the grass can only be greener on the other side.

Newsflash. It's not.

Or it could just be me, but when I arrive back HOME from abroad, that is exactly the way I feel.

I'm HOME.

And as lovely as the other countries visited have been, they are not HOME and will never be, and my HOME is something that I am prepared to give my all to every day, to make it a better place to be.

But getting back to the subject of the media, including social media, it is of growing concern to me that it is now becoming almost impossible to believe what you read, ANYWHERE.

This being the case, just where do we go for “the truth”. In fact, is there even such a thing, as in the end does it not depend on one's point of view?

This is not a small question, especially when one works in the financial services industry and is reliant on the media for feedback/information on a whole host of issues, such as politics and business, given that these exert great influence over just how money is to be invested.

Follow the wrong trail of breadcrumbs and you end up being eaten alive, which is not really where anyone wants to be.

I cannot recall the specific detail now, but I do recall just before (was it even the day before?) the great crash of 2008 Ben Bernanke, the then chair of the US Federal Reserve saying there was absolutely no risk of such a thing happening, well...not in the foreseeable future anyway.

Had one “bought” into this at the time, one would have suffered much financial pain indeed.

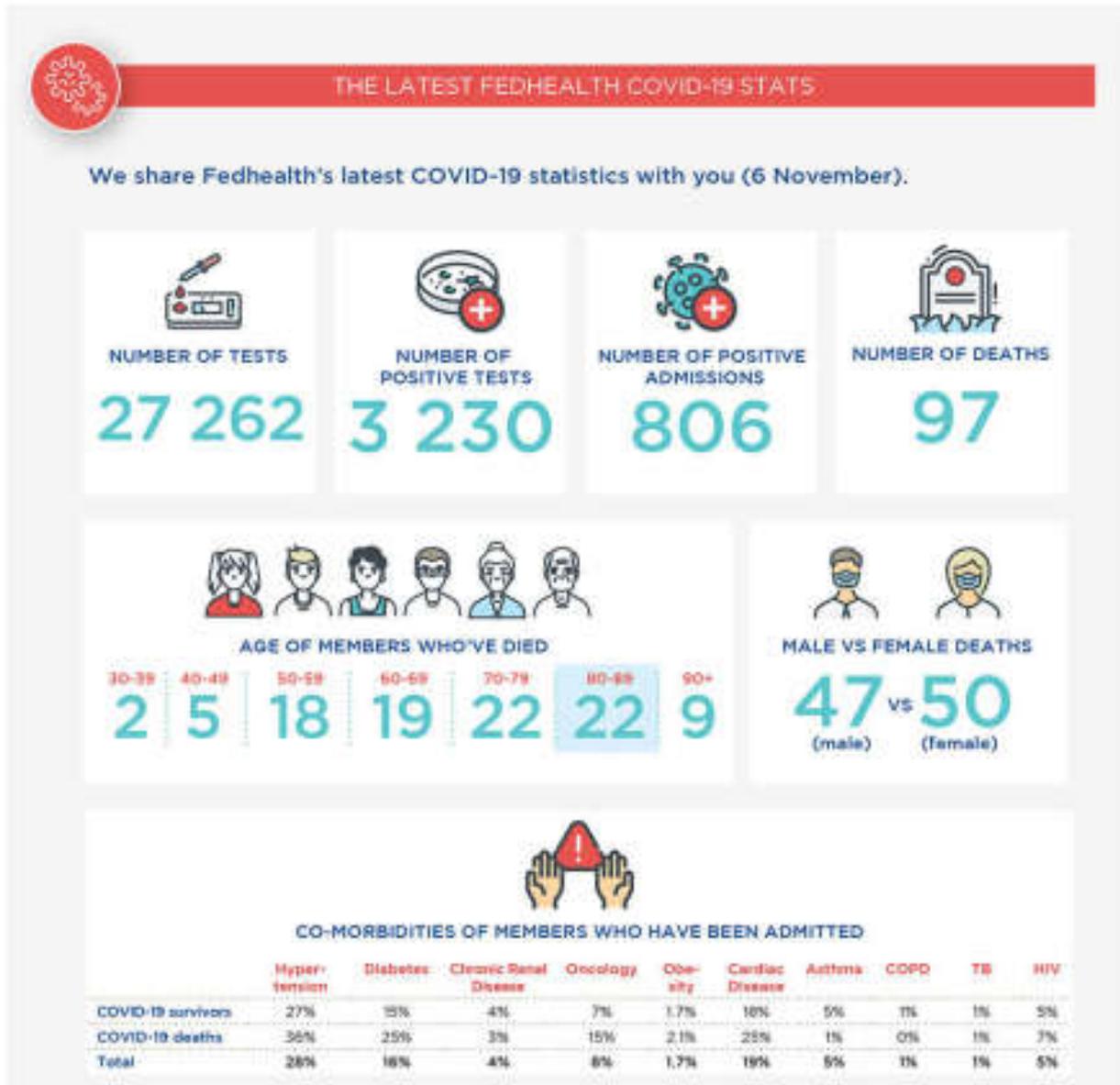
And now we are more overstretched market valuation-wise than at any time in the last 100 years or so, including 2008, and that was before the Coronavirus became the pandemic that it is, and the powers that be are saying the same soothing things, like “Its OK, we got this”

But one has to wonder, given the lack of any plan around the growing international debt other than “We'll get this sorted, don't worry.” Really?

And now some recent Fedhealth stats on the Coronavirus.

This just in from Fedhealth which I share with you now. (My apologies for the poor reproduction quality)

Given our current “level 1 light” lockdown status, it served as a very pertinent and timely reminder to me that the virus is still very much with us.



There are several things I find very interesting about the numbers shown above, one of them being how close the number of deaths recorded in the age bands 60-69, 70-79,80-89 are.

I really would not have imagined this, but there you are.

It is also interesting to note zero deaths in the 20-29 age band, but this could just be because so many in that age band are just starting out in life and may not have been able to afford to be a member of a medical aid, so no stats will be available in this regard.

This underlines the need to be very cautious when interpreting “sterile” data of any sort.

One simply HAS to have access to as much underlying information as possible for any sort of data to be interpreted meaningfully.

In this regard, I am often reminded of the adage that if you have your head in the oven and your feet in the fridge, then on average you’re OK, whereas in REALITY, you are anything but OK, if even alive!

Further to the above, the figures provided clearly illustrate that the co-morbidities you absolutely do not want to have are Hypertension, Diabetes, Cancer, Obesity, Cardiac Disease, and TB as in all of those cases there is a higher death rate % than there is a survival rate %, with cancer being the worst of these.

But again, this is just a small sample so the results will not be as robust as they would be from a much larger sampling.

This being said however, they are not way off the mark in so far as what we currently know about Covid-19 is concerned.

So please, keep on wearing those masks, keep your distance, and wash those hands often and well.

Although there is news of an imminent vaccine (December I think in the US) it is going to be a LONG time yet before a sufficiently large proportion of the world’s population is vaccinated against the virus.

And even then there is still MUCH that is in the realm of the unknown such as HOW OFTEN one should vaccinate and whether if vaccinated, one could still be a transmitter of the virus and so on.

So in the meantime, please do your bit and download the COVID Alert SA App on your smart-phone, and get your family and friends to do so. I want to get rid of the mask and sanitiser ASAP. This App is another weapon in our arsenal. There is absolutely no reason not to use it.

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.