



To: All Media

Attention: News Editors

Date: 26 May 2021

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

GAUTENG COGTA MEC LEBOGANG MAILE URGES SAFETY FIRST DURING THE WINTER SEASON

With the temperatures plummeting and the winter weather upon us, the Covid-19 pandemic presents additional safety challenges for communities.

Daily COVID-19 cases are on the rise and the figures in the Gauteng province is a cause for concern in a pre-winter spike.

“Keeping warm while trying to stay safe from infection during this period, means it’s more important than ever to double down on prevention methods, even if you’re experiencing pandemic fatigue like so many others are right now”: cautioned MEC Maile.

There are a few simple yet effective ways to mitigate against contracting the coronavirus this winter and increase the chances of remaining safe and healthy.

Stock up on cold and flu supplies

In case you do get sick with a cold or flu, make sure you have basic items on hand, so you don’t have to leave the safety of your home to make unnecessary runs to the supermarket or pharmacy.

Bring an extra mask when you’re in public.

If you do need to go to the store for essential errands, bring an extra mask with you. Keep tissues and hand sanitizer on hand too.

Personal safety at home

People use different methods to keep warm during the cold winter months. Unfortunately, some of these methods pose serious health and safety risks in the process. One of such dangers is Carbon monoxide poisoning. Hundreds of people are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning each year. It is important to note that the most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often described as “flu-like” – headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

Heat your home safely.

- If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, be extremely careful.
- Avoid switching on the stove for heating purposes
- It is also advisable to have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out: Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Make sure that the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard, but do not run the cord under carpets or rugs.

In conclusion, MEC Maile reminds the community of the general guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Extra Precautionary Steps You Can Take This Winter

- Maintain a social distance of six feet or more from people outside of your household whenever possible.
- Wear face coverings when out in public and when you can't be socially distant.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.
- Avoid large groups or situations when it will be hard to be socially distant.
- When spending time with others, being outdoors is safer than indoors.

Issued by the Gauteng department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs