

DIRECTIVES ON COURT CLOSURES APPLICABLE TO MAGISTRATES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS WITH REGARD TO COVID -19 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 12 OF THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFRICA

DM THULARE, CHIEF MAGISTRATE, CAPE TOWN

11 AUGUST 2020

The following directives are herewith issued, against the background herein set-out

1. There is an increased sanitation programme in place in the building, every two hours each day in the whole building, which includes cleaning and disinfection.
2. All officials are wearing masks, clean their hands regularly and when coming into contact with others, keep the social distance and follow all the appropriate recommendations. Officials should wear their personal protective equipment at all relevant times when on duty, which is in public.
3. There should ordinarily not be any “close contacts” as defined, that is, contact with a Covid- 19 positive person for more than 15 minutes without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment within 1.5m.
4. Where an official or someone tests positive, it is only areas that may have been contaminated, that needs special decontamination, and not the whole building or the whole floor. The areas that may have been contaminated include the applicable office or courtroom, the passages, tea room and bathrooms if visited or occupied.
5. It is not all persons who came into contact with the Covid-19 positive person who should quarantine. Only close contacts as defined have to quarantine for 10 days.
6. All other officials continue to work normally, with appropriate screening for symptoms.
7. The virus is fragile, so the decontaminated areas can be used 48 hours after decontamination.

8. The accepted period is 48 hours after decontamination, which is a period sufficient to allow drying of the disinfectant.
9. The waiting period is based on the substance used for decontamination, to avoid harmful inhalation and related side-effects.