

Actuarial Society Special Update – Corona Virus – Update 3

Introduction

With President Ramaphosa's announcement of the national lockdown from Thursday midnight for the next three weeks (at least), the Corona Virus (CV) situation has advanced significantly from our previous two communications to a next phase.

The objective of these communications is to keep members informed of what ASSA is doing to try to retain services to members in these challenging times. It is not our objective to reiterate or second guess official government communications or communications from employers and other parties.

While the situation may have changed and continues to be evolve rapidly, the principles under which we operate have not changed from our first communication. We have, however, had the opportunity to continue to search for alternative methods of delivery that may allow us to continue to deliver services to members even in our current stage 4 condition of the pandemic.

Education

ASSA will not be holding face to face tuition sessions, workshops or examinations during the remainder of the first semester. Tuition will be delivered online and through Zoom. In addition, we are engaging with workshop presenters to find alternative methods of delivering workshops.

Regarding examinations. At this stage no exams have been cancelled. We will be presenting proposals to the Education Board for alternative options for delivering examinations. We hope to have more certainty within the next week. Students are encouraged to continue to prepare for examinations in the expectation that they will go ahead though in a different setting.

Seminars and sessional meetings

The two seminars scheduled for April have been postponed to an undefined future date. The office is liaising with the organisers of other seminars that will be postponed or switched to virtual delivery. Members will be kept informed.

Events

The New Fellow Qualifier dinners for the first semester have been cancelled. Members who qualified to attend these dinners will have the option of being invited to the second semester dinners (should the crisis have passed by then) or having their certificates couriered to them once the lockdown has been lifted.

All other events will only be confirmed once the lockdown has been lifted and the risk level has subsided significantly.

Meetings

All committees, boards and other structures are encouraged to continue meeting virtually, through Zoom and teleconference. Where necessary, the office can be asked to assist in organising the logistics for the meetings.

Office activities

All staff are working remotely. As much as possible all services will continue though there may be delays when front line staff need to consult with colleagues.

One matter that has been concluded is the signing of an agreement with Actuvier. Details will follow over the next two weeks. This will give members the opportunity to access international CPD content.

Regards



Mike McDougall