

68 Newport Avenue, Glenashley, Durban, South Africa 4051

## **International Federation of Environmental Health**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of the International Federation of Environmental Health dedicated webpage <a href="https://www.ifeh.org/covid19">https://www.ifeh.org/covid19</a> concerning the coronavirus, COVID-19, which is set up on the IFEH website.

The outbreak of this coronavirus, COVID-19, has really caused serious devastation, loss of life and economic hardship in the lives of our people all over the world.

We have to act jointly to tackle this virus and prevent its spread so that we can save millions of lives.

We are aware that Environmental Health Practitioners all over the world are busy in the front line of this fight to prevent the spread of this virus. In brief the role of the Environmental Health Practitioner in fighting this COVID-19, and upholding critical EH functions during this crisis, is manifold, but does diverse from country to country:

- To carry out vigorous health education programmes in the Communities
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others
- Create Community Awareness about COVID-19
- Contact-tracing of cases of COVID-19
- Food Safety
- Secure drinking water quality
- Secure waste collection and waste disposal
- Air Pollution including indoor air pollution
- Disposal of the dead
- Co-operating with other relevant health officials, authorities and emergency agencies.



68 Newport Avenue, Glenashley, Durban, South Africa 4051

## **International Federation of Environmental Health**

The dedicated webpage <a href="https://www.ifeh.org/covid19">https://www.ifeh.org/covid19</a> includes the following:

- Links to authoritative sources on COVID-19 information. This information will also be in four other languages, i.e. Spanish, French, Portuguese and English.
- Inputs from our members on the range of work they are doing in combatting COVID-19, including best practices and with specific emphasis on the role of Environmental Health Practitioners. All the inputs from the different National Organizations must be submitted to their respective Regional Group Chairpersons, who are tasked to compile the inputs and submit to the Webmaster.
- These inputs will also be loaded onto our <u>Facebook page</u>.

I call upon all our members to participate and ensure that they contribute to this webpage, which has been established specifically to highlight the work that is been done by Environmental Health Practitioners to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Let me remind all of you to WASH your hands, Sanitizer and practice Social Distancing and ensure you have Personal Protective Clothing when carrying out your functions.

Lastly from the Board of Directors, to all Environmental Health Practitioners our thoughts are with all of you while you carry out your functions and be safe.

Regards,

Dr. Selva Mudaly

President - IFEH