

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

06-04-2020

COVID-19: Temporary suspension of hospital visiting hours

The PSA welcomes Circular 26 of 2020 issued by the Department of Health which, temporarily suspends visiting hours at Hospitals during the COVID-19 outbreak. According to the Circular, the decision was taken after the Department noted the continued crowding at hospitals despite the limitation to one visitation of one hour per day. This comes after Circular 13 of 2020, which was issued to give direction on the number of visitors per patient spending time if less than 15 minutes per visit. Further that the visitors are posing a risk of spreading the virus to already vulnerable patients admitted to hospitals. Therefore, the Department of Health suspended all visits to patients until further notice with immediate effect.

The PSA notes this positive direction by the Department that is unable to fully comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, COVID-19 Regulations and DPSA Circular 7 in that most Health facilities are not providing workers with protective equipment. The PSA still believes that the Department will take the necessary steps to temporarily suspend services at some clinics where there is still a shortage of water and safety measures to curb transmission of the virus.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER