

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

06-04-2020

Response to COVID-19: Mass household screening

The President announced a large-scale screening, testing, tracing and a medical management programme to manage COVID-19. Some 10 000 field workers will be visiting homes in villages, towns and cities to screen residents for virus symptoms. Subsequently, the Department of Health will be embarking on a mass household (HH) screening across all districts to improve early detection of potential COVID-19 cases.

The Limpopo Department of Health issued Memo to Recall (from lockdown) and activation of Community Health Workers/Community Care Givers/Home-Based Care Workers/Mother Mentors/People Living with HIV/Lay Counsellors to respond to the national call to embark on mass household screening for COVID-19. The Memo further indicates that the Provincial Treasury approved renewal of contracts for 12 months with effect of 1 April 2020, hence they must resume their duties on 6 April 2020. Signing of contracts will be concluded on 7 April 2020 and capturing on Persal will be completed before or on 14 April 2020.

Although the PSA appreciates these efforts, these may be negatively affected by failure to provide these workers with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks. The PSA has been calling upon the Department to provide employees based at clinics with PPE, but compliance has been very disappointing.

The PSA calls upon shop stewards to assist in ensuring that workers are not sent out without necessary PPE as this will be in contravention of section 8 of *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA will closely guard against abuse of workers and will ensure the protection of their rights. Please report non-compliance to phone/Whatsapp 076 983 9852.

GENERAL MANAGER