

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

30-03-2020

COVID-19 update: Tshilidzini Clinic and Clinics in Vhembe Districts

The PSA was informed by members at Clinics in Vhembe Districts of the employer's failure to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) despite the undertaking by the Department that this will be provided to all facilities. Failure to provide no-touch dustbins, gloves, masks, sanitisers, disinfectants, and disposable towels for workers to clean their hands exposes them to risk of infection, which is unacceptable.

Employees at Tshilidzini Clinic are experiencing problems as surrounding clinics are referring patients to the Clinic owing to a lack of PPE, although they have the same problem. Staff at the clinic are put under pressure by staff at the hospital to assist these patients without protection.

The PSA engaged the employer, giving it 24 hours to ensure the provision of PPE and comply with the provision of section 8 of *Occupational Health and Safety Act* in ensuring that it provides and maintains a safe, healthy and conducive work environment without risk to employees. The Department of Labour was also engaged to request urgent inspections at Tshilidzini Clinic and the Inspector is being awaited.

The PSA is furthermore extremely concerned since the Minister of Health has indicated that there are health workers who tested positive for the virus and cannot wait for health workers at Tshilidzini Clinic and surrounding clinics to be infected before action is taken. Members can contact the PSA Provincial Office at patricia.matlhadisa@psa.co.za or Whatsapp 076 983 9852.

GENERAL MANAGER