

MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19: Free State Government Departments fall short

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely disappointed and condemns in the strongest terms the way Free State Government Departments are responding to Corona Virus prevention measures.

The PSA has discovered that employees are expected to attend to members of the public and render services under circumstances that are unsafe and pose a risk to their health. According to circular 7 of 2020 issued by Department of Public Service and Administration, departments are required to conduct a risk assessment to identify areas where provisions against COVID 19 are still inadequate and implement processes to immediately correct these. Free State Government Departments have not complied.

Sanitisers and other basic relevant personal protection equipment have not been provided at workplaces. At clinics and hospitals, the number of members of the public allowed onto the premises is inconsistent with the protocols. The PSA observed instances where clinics and testing stations have more than 150 members of the public waiting to be assisted by health workers. There are no scanners to check members of the public before entering these facilities. In addition, no training has been conducted for frontline employees to identify members of the public who display symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

The PSA, in view of these circumstances, advises its members to immediately report any workplace that has a situation where there is risk of contracting the virus, where they are not provided with masks, sanitisers, and scanners.

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