

<b>MEDIA</b>	<b>COVID-19: PSA calls on KZN Provincial Treasury to allocate budget for testing of frontline workers</b>
DATE	9 July 2020
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about steep increase in COVID-19 infections amongst frontline workers in the Department of Health, Department of Educations, the South African Police Service and Magistrate's Courts in KwaZulu-Natal.

More than 1 200 of frontline workers that have tested positive since the first reported case of COVID-19 in March 2020. These numbers have a huge impact on the battle against the pandemic as employees who have tested positive are on sick leave. Employees at the Department of Health and the Department of Justice have refused to render services in unsafe working environments as the employer is failing to follow protocols when employees test positive.

Government's refusal to test frontline workers is hampering efforts to flatten the curve of the pandemic as it negatively affects workplace planning and the allocation of resources. For the KZN provincial government to prepare an aggressive strategy to flattening the curve, it must have accurate data to make informed decisions. The PSA therefore calls on the KZN Provincial Treasury to allocate funds to the Provincial Department of Health for the testing of all frontline workers.

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