

MEDIA RELEASE	Covid-19 virus: PSA to engage PSCBC on health and safety of public servants
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In the face of a rise in confirmed cases of South Africans infected with the Covid-19 virus, the Public Servants Association (PSA) has requested an urgent special meeting of the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council meeting on 17 March 2020 to address government's contingency plans.

Employees at border posts, airports and health facilities face a higher risk of contamination and the PSA will request government to provide a detailed plan on steps taken and preventative measures to limit the spread of the virus, especially in these work environments.

The PSA pointed out that government has a duty in terms of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to provide its employees with a reasonably safe working environment. The PSA will thus demand that protective clothing and sanitizers be provided to all employees in high-risk environments. The PSA is also of the view that all official travelling to countries already affected by the pandemic should be stopped until it is safe to do so.

The PSA has also called on its members to be alert and take the necessary steps to limit the spread of the virus. The PSA encourages all public servants to observe basic hygiene to lessen the risk of infection and spread of viruses. Employees who recently travelled to areas with confirmed Covid-19 cases or have encountered someone who travelled to high risks areas and now experience any symptoms related to the virus, are advised to seek medical attention without delay.

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