

FOR PSA MEMBERS: FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

18-05-2020

## COVID-19: Returning to Work at DOH

On 15 May 2020, the PSA met with the DDG of Health in Free State regarding the circular that requires 1/3 of the workforce to return to work following COVID-19 Regulations under level 4. The DDG indicated that employees who were at home as results of level 5 locked down would be returning to their workplace. However, no date was set as yet. He indicated that it would be more than 1/3 of employees returning to work.

Labour cautioned the DDG that the Directive on the return of employees refers to 1/3 of the workforce in the workplace not more and that if the Department adds an additional 30% on top as they indicated it may lead to overcrowding and a is health hazard to employees. The department was further advised to give statics of the percentage of staff that are at the workplace in order to determine the correct number of employees to return to make the 1/3 at the workplace.

In the meantime, the employer agreed to withhold the return of staff until correct percentage has been obtained from the institutions. The Department also indicated that Bophelo House Medical Depot, EMS at Lejwelepujwa District Office and Itemoheleng Hospital have been disinfected.

Cloth masks has been procured through the Department of Treasury for the whole of the Province and each returning employee would be issued with two masks. In compliance with the Directive the employees would not return until such time that the masks have been received from Treasury.

Members will be kept informed.

GENERAL MANAGER