

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA appalled by Free State Department of Correctional Services' contravention**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is appalled that the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in the Free State instructed its employees not to wear masks.

On 31 March 2020, a circular was issued to employees by the Area Commissioner of Goedemoed Management Area, instructing them not to wear masks while on duty. This instruction is not only absurd but also unlawful and puts employees at risk. Should COVID-19 spread to a Correctional facility, it will be catastrophic owing to the population density of inmates.

The PSA has arranged an urgent meeting with the Regional Commissioner to stop this instruction that is against National Regulations and DCS directives related to the health and safety of its employees and members of the public in preventing the spread of the virus.

END

