

MEDIA RELEASE: PSA calls for immediate closure of uMgungundlovu Health District after manager tested positive for COVID-19

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The PSA in KwaZulu-Natal calls for immediate closure of uMgungundlovu District Health in Pietermaritzburg as one of the managers tested positive for covid-19.

The PSA KZN receive a confirmation by the employee who works as a manager in uMgungundlovu Health district in Pietermaritzburg that she received the results on the 06th of May 2020 that she is covid-19 positive. She is at Grey's Hospital where she is receiving medical treatment and the patient is one of the vulnerable employee with underlying health condition who were forced by the Department of Health to perform duties exposing them to contract the virus since they are a high risk.

The PSA has on numerous occasion sensitise the Department of Health KZN to comply with the OHS, lockdown regulations, Health guidelines, national disaster management act and the President's announcement that the safety of the employees and the public is of paramount important therefore employees with comorbidities should be allowed to work from home in order to minimise the risk but the department choose to ignore all the prescripts and breach their own rules as a result of their deliberate negligence the vulnerable employee has contracted the virus.

It is on those grounds that the PSA calls for the immediate closure of uMgungundlovu Health District for the purposes of disinfecting and fumigate the building by the specialized service provide and we also call for employees who were in contact with employee who tested positive to undergone a test for COVID-19.

The PSA condemns the decision taken by the district manager and the HR manager to force ordinary cleaning staff to do the disinfecting of the building without being trained for a COVID-19 deep cleaning using the biocide, we are saying this is gambling with the lives of the employees and they have no proper gear for covid-19 but they have promised employees that overtime will be paid, this conduct is unacceptable and we will lay the charge against the Department of Health KZN for violating the COVID-19 rules.

END



