

MEDIA RELEASE COVID-19: PSA calls on MEC of Limpopo Health to intervene at Gateway

Clinic

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disappointed that employees who screened a patient who tested positive for COVID-19 at the Tshilidzi Gateway Clinic in Limpopo, have not yet been tested for infection.

A patient who presented COVID-19 symptoms consulted at the Clinic. After being screen, the patient was referred to the Hospital. The patient's positive results were received on 7 April 2020. Despite this, the employees were not tested for the virus and were instructed to report for duty and wear masks.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the failure to test these employees and having them rendering services. This presents a real risk of exposing their colleagues to infection. Although the Clinic provided the employees with personal protective equipment at the PSA's insistence, failure to test employees who were in direct contact with a confirmed case is unacceptable.

When the matter was reported to the PSA by the Union's members, the PSA engaged the employer and condemned the lack of urgency and irresponsible conduct. The PSA's demand for testing of the employees has to date, however, been ignored. The PSA calls upon the MEC of Health in Limpopo to intervene and direct that the affected employees be tested immediately to prevent the risk of the spreading of the virus. The PSA further requests the MEC to ensure that consequence management is applied for those responsible for this irresponsible and reckless behaviour.

**END**