

# INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MTHATHA)

08-07-2020

## Escalating Infection Rate- Efata School For the deaf and blind (Mthatha)

The PSA warned of the premature opening of schools in winter to avoid teacher-pupil infections. Unfortunately, the PSA's call fell on deaf ears and the number of infections at schools, proves that PSA was right, in its warning of premature opening of schools during winter. The rate of infections and deaths at schools in the Mthatha area is alarming. The PSA, was informed that an employee at Efata School for the Blind and Deaf, has confirmed positive COVID-19 cases affecting atleast seven (7) Grade 12 students, one support staffer, and seven (7) deaf learners who are regarded as direct contacts of the employee.

The PSA learned after the results were received, of the first case on 6 July 2020 and that the affected areas were fumigated, and employees were released for self-quarantine. The second results were received on 7 July and the school is busy with fumigation of the affected area. The learners who are regarded as direct contact are quarantined in an isolated area at school. The Department of Health, was called to test all the direct contacts and were expected on 6 July 2020, but it was reported at the time of writing the Informus that they did not yet come.

The PSA maintains that the department, must take the health and safety of the employees seriously and apply appropriate safety measures, to prevent further infection. The PSA is monitoring the matter and continues to be cautious and safeguard the wellbeing of members. Members are encouraged to continue to report any omission that may occur in the workplace to the PSA through their shop stewards or call 082 880 8959.

GENERAL MANAGER