INFORMUS

Non-compliance with COVID-19 Level 4 Lockdown Restrictions: Willowvale Community Clinic

Members will recall that subsequent to the relaxation of lockdown restrictions to level-4, the Department of Employment and Labour and the DPSA issued the COVID-19 OHS and circular 18 /2020, respectively to regulate safety in the workplace. These directives provided the safety measures that need to be implemented by employers, such as conducting risk assessments, deep cleaning of workplaces, screening of employees, provision of the PPE, the maintenance of a minimum number of employees in workplace to comply with social distancing, as well as considering remote work for employees from 60-years of age and those with underlying medical conditions, which make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

The PSA has been alerted to the insufficient PPEs at Willowvale CHC, pointing to shortage of sanitisers in all entrances; shortage of masks where employees are provided with only one mask. Subsequently, the PSA engaged the Hospital Management and resolved as follows:

•   The Clinic received enough sanitisers which will be made available to all entrances;
•   The PSA did not consent to the supply of 1-mask and demanded that all employees be provided with atleast 2-masks. This matter will be discussed further internally owing to the shortage of masks;
•   The Department of Environmental Affairs will be approached to give an induction on chemicals used to decontaminate the workplace;
•   Training will be provided to staff about the PPEs;
•   Applications of employees over the age of 60 and those with underlying conditions, to work from home were escalated to the District Office for consideration and response is awaited.

The PSA will keep members informed of the developments and monitor the situation and continue 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 the shop stewards.

GENERAL MANAGER