

FOR PSA MEMBERS: FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

10-07-2020

Meeting with HOD following incident at National Hospital

This serves as feedback to the members, following a meeting held with the Head of Department of Health Free State, subsequent to an incident at National Hospital, when the employer failed to observe the required COVID 19 protocols.

The parties agreed to the following:

- All employees will be provided with the appropriate face masks. These must be worn at all times while on shift. Members must note that not wearing a mask is a contravention of the health and safety regulations.
- Employees must observe all COVID-19 hygiene requirements and make ensure they keep to social distancing as prescribed.
- Person under investigation for COVID 19:
Employees who are tested must be quarantined. The meeting agreed that the manner in which management dealt with the situation at National Hospital, by compelling employees to go to back to work, despite having been in contact with someone who tested positive was incorrect. The matter is under further investigation by the department .
- The meeting resolved that all employees who come in close contact with a person who tested positive must be quarantined. Members need to note that the definition of a close contact, is being in the same room with an infected person, but being with someone and both of you are wearing masks, is not considered close contact.
- The specific area where the employee worked at needs to me closed and sanitized. The HOD further acknowledged that the cleaners do not have the proper training.
- The department agreed that, were practically possible, not all employees will be reporting for duty and people with co-morbidities will be accommodated.
- The Occupational Health and Safety committees that are not functional will be re-established to start operating. A follow up Union Management meeting will be held to provide further feedback.

Members are advised to inform PSA immediately if the above is not adhere to.

GENERAL MANAGER