

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

28-04-2020

Update: COVID-19

Members will recall that the Free State Department of Health established a Steering Committee as prescribed by DPSA Circular 7 of 2020. The PSA is, however, very concerned that despite steering committee meetings taking place, there are major issues of non-compliance and failure in providing direction by the provincial Department of Health.

It is unfortunate that despite the legal obligation on the Department, the Department under the leadership of the current HOD has treated the importance of ensuring compliance and providing a safe environment for employees with no urgency and a total lack of accountability. To date, one of the most important requirements of conducting a COVID-19 risk assessment has not been completed. This causes a lot of uncertainty with some of the operation plans that the Department is rolling out to mitigate the risks faced by employees. These plans should have been underpinned by the risk assessment exercise as envisaged in DPSA Circular 7 of 2020. The leadership of the Department is failing dismally to ensure the safety of employees.

The PSA cannot wait for a disaster to happen. Labour requested the Department of Health to establish similar committees at district and facility level. These committees will deal with COVID-19 related matters and escalate those that remain unresolved to the Provincial Steering Committee. The PSA would like to encourage its members to actively participate in these structures and contact the Provincial Office where these committees are not operational or have not been established.

GENERAL MANAGER