

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: FREE STATE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY
(SASSA)

21-05-2020

Feedback Meeting: COVID-19

Following pronouncements of the downgrade of lockdown restrictions from level-5 to level-4, it was announced that certain critical and essential services rendered by public servants, will be rendered to the public. SASSA is one of the essential and critical service providers to the vulnerable and destitute in the country. Subsequently, the Department of Employment and Labour issued COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety Measures in Workplaces, to be read with *OHSA* to ensure the safety of employees, during level-4 lockdown restrictions.

SASSA Free State issued a Risk-Adjusted Plan Moving towards level-4 of lockdown, directing the compliance with 1/3 staff complement for all districts. It is reported that all SASSA Offices in the Free State, have been disinfected/sanitised, cloth masks have been procured and distribution is underway, sanitisers and thermometers have been received. Training of OHS personnel has been completed with 15 staff members from districts and regional offices. The schedule of the workers that complies with 1/3 principle is completed in all offices. The employee's will be scanned prior to entering and exiting the building.

The PSA will however, monitor the situation to ensure full compliance with the safety regulations, as workers and members of the public must be protected at all times. The employer has the legal duty, in terms of the *OHSA*, to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees.

Members are advised to exercise extra caution when executing their duties and not to expose themselves to the possible danger of being infected with COVID-19. It is of utmost importance to ensure constant washing of hands with soap, use of hand sanitisers, always put on masks and to maintain social distancing. Shop stewards are further advised to ensure that adequate PPE is available to all offices in-line with the number of employees reporting for duty.

The members are further advised to report any safety concerns and non-compliance to shop stewards and the PSA Provincial Office to nceba.baardman@psa.co.za or 082 880 8939

GENERAL MANAGER