

# INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

15-05-2020

## FEEDBACK: COVID-19 Monitoring, Evaluation and Risk Management Committee

Members were informed in a previous Informus that the KZN Department of Education has established a Monitoring, Evaluation and Risk Assessment Committee. The Informus also outlined the responsibilities of the Committee.

A follow up virtual meeting of the Committee was convened on 13 May 2020. The meeting was convened to assess the state of readiness of District Offices and schools to prepare for the phased return of learners and staff.

### Communication Plan

The Department indicated that a communication plan is being developed and will be circulated shortly for consideration by organised labour. Communication should be uniform, but the independence of organisations will be respected. A uniform approach will avoid confusion, the distortion of information and retain public confidence. All communication from the will be on the official letter head to prevent the proliferation of fake news. Decisions made by the Committee will be escalated to Districts for actioning.

### Committee Report

The importance of the Committee requiring information from other committees to assess risks was also highlighted. The Health and Safety Committee, for instance, will provide information on the state of readiness of offices and schools in terms of sanitising and the distribution of PPE. The report will be submitted at the next meeting. Organised labour requested that the report be in writing to allow for unions to verify the information through member structures.

### Monitoring and Evaluations Tools

The Committee's Monitoring Tool has been reviewed to include the inputs submitted by organised labour. The Tool outlines all the identified risks. The Tool is simple in its application and will provide for rapid reporting.

### Risk Register

The Department also revised the Risk Register. The Department emphasised that the Risk Register is not a static document and will be updated regularly. Action plans will be monitored to include additional actions required.

### **Provision of Cleaners in Schools**

The provision of additional Cleaners at schools will depend on the number of employees that will be provided by the Department of Public Works in terms of the Extended Public Works Programme.

### **School Infrastructure**

The Infrastructure Section will determine the number of toilets required by schools and submit a report to the Committee.

### **Learner Transportation**

The provision of additional buses for learner transport will be negotiated with the service providers to facilitate social distancing. Service providers will also be requested to provide conductors/driver assistants to monitor and ensure social distancing in buses.

Each school will be supplied with a minimum of three thermometers for screening. However, PSA suggested that the number be determined in accordance with the school roll. The Department reported that screeners will be appointed in writing and testing will be undertaken by the Department of Health.

Members will be updated on any new developments.

GENERAL MANAGER