

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

14-07-2020

COVID-19: PSA demands isolation for all tested for COVID-19 at Hlokozi and Ixopo Clinic and proper disinfection of facilities

The PSA, has been inundated with calls from Ixopo and Hlokozi Clinic employees who have had three of their co-workers test positive for COVID-19. The PSA denounces the conduct of CEO of the Christ the King Hospital and the DM of Harry Gwala District, for threatening employees with the police and leave without pay when they were merely asking to be tested and for the facility to be disinfected properly. The PSA is also very concerned that when employees were eventually tested, some could isolate at home, whilst others were forced to remain on duty.

The PSA is convinced that all employees working in Ixopo and Hlokozi Clinic are in one way or other close contacts and are high risks due to the following listed reasons:

- All employees reporting for duty are signing one attendance register at reception,
- All employees share same ablution facilities,
- Some employees share consulting areas,
- Some employees share outreach vehicles,
- All employees share one tea-room and one kitchen

The PSA also learned that when the facilities were eventually cleaned, by untrained General Orderlies who are also contacts of confirmed cases, employees were inside the facility instructed to move around with their belongings and were recalled back in few hours, without allowing proper decontamination of the facility and while all this was happening patients were also in the facility.

In the spirit of fighting the scourge and flattening the curve of COVID-19 virus, the PSA calls on the Christ the King Hospital, Harry Gwala Health District and KZN Health:

- to ensure that all Ixopo and Hlokozi Clinic staff members who have tested for COVID-19 be isolated at home, while waiting for the results as they may be ticking time bombs waiting to explode.
- to ensure that the facilities are properly disinfected by professionals and not untrained General Orderlies and be evacuated for at least 48 hours to allow for effective decontamination.
- to ensure that service delivery is continued through mobile clinics in the meantime utilizing staff from areas not affected.

Members can report workplace COVID-19 non-compliance and concerns to PSA Provincial Offices.

GENERAL MANAGER