

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

03-07-2020

Temporary Closure due to positive COVID-19 case – Rural Development

The PSA was made aware, that an employee at the Department of Rural Development in Polokwane, who tested positive for COVID-19 early this week. The employer after becoming aware of the results, immediately closed the offices for disinfection. The PSA is concerned about the number of infections within the public service, the employer is however, commended for prompt reaction and prioritising the lives of employees.

Members are therefore advised, that when an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the employer may only allow such employee to return to work upon completion of the mandatory 14-days of self-isolation and medical evaluation to confirm work fitness. Furthermore, if any employee has been in contact with the infected employee, assessment must be conducted by the employer to determine the extent of exposure wherein in the event of low risk, the employer may permit the exposed worker to continue working using a cloth mask complying with standard precautions. However, in the event of high risk, an employee must be tested and be quarantined for 14 days. Furthermore, the PSA believes that the employer will also screen all employees and provide counselling to those who might need the same.

The PSA will continue to engage the employer to ensure that safety measures are adhered to as per regulations. Members will be advised on when to report for duty by the employer. Members are advised to wear a mask as at all times, wash hands with soap, and keep social distancing. Members are encouraged to report noncompliance to COVID-19 regulations to their shop stewards, contact the office on 015 295 0500.

GENERAL MANAGER