

Feedback Covid-19 Steering Committee Meeting

The virtual meeting took place on 27th July 2020 and the following issues were discussed:

Covid-19 Reports

The employer reported 14 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases, 25 referred cases, and 80 cases for track and tracing.

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment was conducted on new reported cases, where officials who tested positive are on self-isolation, their close contacts have been identified and referred to the Health Department. Furthermore, disinfection was done in all workplaces. All protocols were observed and operations are in full swing with available officials, however, Vhembe District at Malamulele Traffic Station is sharing an office with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (DPWRI). It was agreed upon for the temporary closure for deep cleaning by the service provider after engaging with local management. Employees were to return to work on 29 July 2020

Compliance with Covid-19 Regulations:

- District Directors appointed Compliance Officers and issued letters of appointment;
- Risk Adjusted Strategy for Readiness of employees to return to work in the department was outlined by the Chief Director Corporate Services. Labour will receive the copy for their inputs;
- HOD reported that during the HOD's meeting, the Department of Health made a presentation on disinfection and cleaning of workplaces, wherein they emphasised a need for thorough cleaning with soap and water, frequent education, face cover, washing of hands, wearing of masks, and to reduce aerosol transmission through opening all office windows. Chlorine based disinfectant with 70% alcohol must be used;
- The importance of continued service delivery was emphasised hence the whereabouts of officials must always be known, as employees are using COVID-19 as an excuse for not coming to work, which increases the risk of infection of the virus outside of the workplace.

Members will recall that the department issued Circular 18 recalling 100% of employees to report on duty, which was withdrawn at the behest of the PSA, however, the employer issued Circular 20 reiterating the same hence the PSA approached the Department of Employment and Labour for intervention.

GENERAL MANAGER