

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

30-07-2020

Non-compliance with Covid-19 Regulations - Provincial Office

Members will recall that the PSA engaged the Department of Employment and Labour, to conduct an inspection at 113 Biccard Street, after employees tested positive for COVID-19. Subsequently, the department conducted an inspection on 13 July 2020 and issued the following Contravention Notice:

- The department did not comply with COVID-19 regulations and environmental regulations and failed to develop a plan, outlining the protective measures in place, for the phased return of employees. No investigation of mode of exposure, including any control failure, review, and assessment to ensure necessary controls in the workplace.
- Failure to screen workers when entering the workplace. Toilets were not in a good state for usage. There is no proper ventilation for reduction of SARS-COV-2 viral load.
- No proof of informing, training, and instruction on the usage of cloth masks, as per regulations and not all employees were provided freely with two cloth masks.
- Not keeping the indoor workplace clean, orderly and free from materials, tools and similar things, which are not necessary for the workplace.
- Failure to make available a workplace that is unimpeded for every employee.
- Failure to ensure that every door is kept clear and capable of being easily and rapidly opened from inside for quick and easy evacuation.
- Failure to ensure that all work surfaces/equipment are disinfected before work begins and regularly during working periods and after work ends. All areas such as toilets, common areas, door handles, shared electronic equipment are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Ensuring availability of clean water and soap and provision of only paper towels.

The Labour Inspector visited the department on 29 July 2020 to check progress into compliance, finding that the department could only disinfect the workplace, however, all contraventions remained. The inspector will arrange a meeting with the HOD to map a way forward wherein labour will also form part of the engagement. Furthermore, Waterberg District had four employees who tested positive for COVID-19, wherein the building was closed on 29 July for disinfection and implementation of safety protocols.

GENERAL MANAGER