

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

01-05-2020

Update: COVID-19

PPE: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) frontliners - Mankweng and FW Knobel Hospitals

Members will recall that the Department of Health has continuously confirmed that there is inadequate PPE for employees including the 10 000 Community Healthcare Workers responsible for household screening. The PSA was, however, alerted that EMS frontliners at these institutions are expected to go out on call to collect patients from their homes without full protective gear. Upon engagement with the employer, it was established that EMS frontliners do not qualify for full protective gear, except when collecting a suspected COVID-19 patient. Further, all calls are assessed at control centre where the symptoms and nature of the illness are established before the EMS team can be sent. Should EMS officials suspect a case of COVID-19, they are advised to call for backup whereby the specialised team will be dispatched. The employer undertook to provide basic training for EMS officials on COVID-19 intervention and criteria for use of PPE, including full protective gear.

Clinics: Capricorn District

Members at Lonsdale, Sello Moloto, Percy Five, Matlala, Diana, Mashashane and Maraba Clinics are without surgical gowns, toilet paper and there is no screening of employees. The PSA is engaging the employer to ensure that the matter receives attention. Members are advised to be extremely careful when executing their duties while the matter is receiving attention.

Non-payment of claims: Groblersdal Hospital and Makhado Sub Districts

The PSA intervened upon receiving complaints from members whose March 2020 claims were not paid. Subsequently, the employer investigated and found that there was no capturing of claims in these areas and corrected this. Members were requested to submit their claims, which were captured and processing of payments is underway.

The PSA appreciates the Union's shop stewards who are hard at work in ensuring that members' rights are protected.

GENERAL MANAGER