

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

22-04-2020

## Feedback: COVID-19 teleconference meeting

A meeting took place on 21 April 2020 where the following issues were discussed:

### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The PSA raised a concern on the appropriateness of PPE provided (e.g. Nurses being given plastic aprons in some clinics). The employer responded that there is nothing wrong with the plastic apron as PPE depends on the level of exposure. An example was given that a frontdesk employee need not wear a gown as there is a lower risk of being infected.

### CHW mass screening, contract and criteria

Mass screening started on 14 April with 948 000 people being screened in all five districts. The transport challenge is being addressed. An employee was robbed of his work tools and another was almost bitten by a dog, giving rise to security and safety concerns. The employer undertook to put measures in place to protect employees during the performance of their duties.

The CHW contracts were reduced to six months owing to inadequate funds. Negotiation for further funding is underway. The employer reported that there were no criteria as all CHWs on Persal were to be on duty except those who refused to sign a six-month contract. Those omitted can submit their names to 076 983 9852.

### Jane Furse One-Stop College

The situation of student nurses at Jane Furse, St Ritas, Letaba and Tshildzini is still being considered by the employer in consultation with the Nursing Council.

### Malaria outbreak

The PSA alerted the employer that the outbreak is not only at Helen Franz Hospital as Alldays and Grootdraai are also affected. The employer indicated that 42 malaria teams already sprayed 982 facilities between September and February and treated 667 patients and the number is going down. The PSA requested the employer to ensure that the necessary treatment is available at all Health facilities.

### Cleaners at Health facilities

The plan to address this challenge has been developed and is awaiting approval. EAP will be involved.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER