

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

24-06-2020

COVID-19: Temporary closure of Phamoko Towers Building

The PSA was made aware that an employee tested positive for COVID-19 at the Provincial Office of the Department of Transport and Community Safety on 22 June 2020. Subsequently, the offices were closed from Tuesday 23 June until Monday 28 June 2020, as a precautionary measure to ensure safety of all employees to enable the tracing processes of possible contacts.

The PSA welcomed the prompt action by the employer to close the building and isolation of the employees, who worked closely with the affected employee pending the conclusion of the tracing and testing process. 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 employer must facilitate the disinfection of the affected workplace. The employer is also called upon to provide counselling for the employees who might need the same.

Members are however advised to adhere to safety protocols while at home to ensure containment of the virus in case they might have been infected, the employees must be constantly monitored for the period of 14 days. The employees with co-morbidities must consult doctors for medical advice. Members should note that it is illegal for the employer to force them to work, in an unsafe working environment, hence they are encouraged to report non-compliance with COVID-19 Regulations to their Shop stewards, contact the office on 082 880 2937 or email mike.mkhize@psa.co.za.

Members will be kept abreast of any developments.

GENERAL MANAGER