

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA) -
LIMPOPO

23-04-2020

Covid-19: Provision of PPE

The PSA was alerted by concerned members about the employer's inability to provide them with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks. Despite its failure to provide skeleton staff with PPE in line with COVID-19 Regulations and the OHSA, the employer recently issued a memo to recall all managers and senior managers, which will increase the number of employees at work. Although the recall will aid in providing additional capacity in the facilitation of SASSA's Social Relief of Distress (SRD) initiatives, the challenge of the employer to ensure adequate PPE is concerning.

Various SASSA offices in Limpopo in the Waterberg District, Modimolle, Aganang and Mogalakwena do not have masks and workers are exposed to infection. Provision of PPE to employees is not a favour but part of implementation of Department of Employment and Labour Guidelines, COVID-19 Regulations and the *OHSA*, which place a legal obligation on the employer to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risk to the health of employees. Employees cannot be forced to perform their jobs in an unsafe environment. Members are advised to demand that the employer provides them with the minimum protective equipment for their own safety.

The PSA will engage the employer to ensure provision of PPE to all employees. Members are advised to exercise caution when performing their jobs to protect themselves and not to allow any form of intimidation to endanger their lives. Members can contact the PSA through Phillip.maponya@psa.co.za or 082 880 8967.

GENERAL MANAGER