

## Update: Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Committee (POHSC) meeting with stakeholders – 21 January 2021

COVID-19 had a severe impact on the lives of all South Africans over the past ten months. Owing to the high rate of infections across the Eastern Cape from work environment to social sphere, the Eastern Cape Department of Health through its POHSC had a constructive meeting to come up with measures to prevent and contain the spread of the virus.

The PSA is actively involved in POHSC meetings. The following issues are standing items on the POHSC agenda for monitoring purposes:

- Consolidated POHS reports from compliance officers
- PPE stock distribution
- COVID-19 Employment Report
- COVID-19 Training Reports
- Remunerative work outside the Public Service (RWOPS)
- SOP Rollout and Orientation Report
- POHSC Oversight Monitoring Report
- Psychosocial Intervention Report
- SOP Bed Occupancy

During the meeting on 20 January 2021, a new standing item regarding the Rollout and Strategy Plan of the COVID vaccine was added. As an introduction, the item was discussed by means of a presentation by the employer. This was also the only item discussed. It is expected that the vaccine will be available early February 2021. The entire country will initially receive 1.5 million vaccines, of which the Eastern Cape will be receiving 200 000. The distribution of vaccines will roll out in three phases. Phase 1 will target health-care and related workers. Phase 2 will include essential workers, persons in congregate settings and persons over the age of 18 with comorbidities. Phase 3 will include all persons over the age of 18.

As an immediate way forward, a COVID Vaccination (COVAC 19) Project Task Team and COVAC Control Centres (CCC) will be established and will be responsible for the development and implementation of the Provincial Plan based on the National Implementation Plan.

The PSA urges members to give inputs on matters they wish to be considered during this process of the rollout of the vaccine to Riaan Vosloo (riaan.vosloo@psa.co.za / 082 880 8958) and Samkelo Mzuku (samkelo.mzuku@psa.co.za – 072 625 9021).

Members will be informed as the process unfolds.

GENERAL MANAGER