

Feedback: Health and Safety Committee meeting

A virtual meeting took place on 30 June 2021 where the following issues were discussed:

Vaccination rollout plan: Educators

The next round of vaccination will only take place this coming Friday although initially Limpopo was allocated Fridays and Saturdays. The Department of Health must be provided with the numbers per site and not the lists to enable provision of adequate jabs. The numbers must include independent schools although there will be no on-site registration as data from EMIS will be loaded on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).

Vaccination remains voluntary, however, educators who choose not to vaccinate cannot use co-morbidity as a reason for not coming to work. There employees who are on Persal but not on EVDS, which is receiving attention. Grade R educators at public schools will be covered as they are on Persal but ECDs sector will not be covered as well as EPWP workers and foreign educators. Food handlers will also not be covered and the request to cover unions officials will be escalated to the national Department for decision.

Adjusted alert-level 4

The Departmental circular awaits the approval of the HOD as there are other issues to be considered to ensure full compliance with the DBE gazette and *DPSA Circular 5 of 2021*. The circular will be issued upon approval by the HOD. Concern was raised over delayed issuance of the circular as it leaves workers exposed. The non-issuance of the circular and provision of direction consequently cause non-compliance with prevailing directives. The PSA reiterated that it will not hesitate to contact the Department of Employment and Labour to report non-compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

Members are reminded that the third wave of COVID-19 is more dangerous and they must ensure compliance with COVID-19 protocols, including constant wearing of masks, sanitising of hands, or washing with soap, observation of social distance, avoiding crowded places and social gatherings. Minimise movements and stay at home if not necessary to go out.

GENERAL MANAGER