

## Feedback: COVID-19 Health and Safety Committee meeting

### Workplace readiness checklist

The challenge of cleaning material and PPE for cleaners is resolved. Lack of soap and paper towels in the ablution facilities is still experienced, although being attributed to theft. There are no isolation rooms/sick bays for employees as per COVID-10 regulations. Screening is done by security personnel, although they are overwhelmed, hence the need to train more screeners. There is a dire need of social workers at district offices to assist officials. COVID-19 posters will be distributed to districts, circuits and schools. Compliance Officers were urged to be hands on in ensuring that all workplaces comply with COVID-19 regulations.

### Protocols: Management of COVID-19

Employees are reminded to comply with safety protocols to ensure containment of the virus. The protocol is *attached* for ease of reference.

### Non-payment of General Workers and Education Assistants

The Department of Basic Education was alerted that some of the above-mentioned group of employees have not received their payments and identified provincial coordinators to deal with the problem. Those affected in Limpopo must call Mathew Mhlongo (082 803 2163). PSA shop stewards are urged to assist affected employees to ensure that they receive their payments.

### Districts reports

**Capricorn South:** 20 educators and 6 officials died. Dilapidated Mankweng cluster circuit building under consideration by infrastructure department.

**Capricorn South:** Rotation system implemented; schools inspection planned; 11 educators and 2 circuit officials' deaths with 2 officials isolated and 1 recovery.

**Waterberg:** 7 educators and 3 learners died while 9 educators and 1 official recovered.

**Vhembe East:** 2 deaths, circuit manager and educator with 1 recovery.

**Vhembe West:** Shortage of screeners; 18 educators, 1 principal and 1 circuit manager died while 13 learners and 2 officials recovered.

### **COVID-19 compliance: Marking centres**

12 markers tested positive and released; 76 withdrew from marking centers owing to sicknesses; 33 officials declined their appointments for marking; and 3 markers died.

GENERAL MANAGER



DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**PROTOCOLS FOR MANAGEMENT OF CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

**1. Watch for Symptoms**

1.1 People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 1.1.1 Cough
- 1.1.2 Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- 1.1.3 Fever
- 1.1.4 Chills
- 1.1.5 Muscle pain
- 1.1.6 Sore throat
- 1.1.7 New loss of taste or smell

1.2 This list is not exhaustive of all possible symptoms. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including; gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

1.3 If an employee presents with those symptoms, or advises the employer of these symptoms, the employer will – not permit him or her to enter the workplace or report for work.

**1.4 If an employee with symptoms is already at work, the employer will immediately:**

- 1.4.1 Isolate an employee and provide him or her with a FFP1 surgical mask;
- 1.4.2 Arrange for him or her to be transported in a manner that does not place other employees or members of the public at risk either to be self-isolated or for a medical examination or testing;

- 1.4.3 Assess the risk of transmission, disinfect the area and the employees workstation, refer those employees who may be at risk for screening and take any other appropriate measure to prevent possible transmission;
  - 1.4.4 Ensure that the employee is tested or referred to an identified testing site;
  - 1.4.5 Place its employee on paid sick leave in terms of applicable leave provisions;
  - 1.4.6 Ensure that the employee is not discriminated against on grounds of having tested positive for COVID-19 in terms of section 6 of the Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act No. 55 of 1998); and
- 1.5 If there is evidence that the employee contracted COVID-19 as a result of occupational exposure, the employer shall lodge a claim for compensation in terms of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act No. 130 of 1993) in accordance with Notice 193 published on 3 March 2020.
  - 1.6 If an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and isolated in accordance with the Department of Health Guidelines, the LDoE may only allow him or her to return to work on the following conditions:
    - 1.6.1 The employee has undergone a medical evaluation confirming that the he/she has been tested negative for COVID-19;
    - 1.6.2 The LDoE will ensure that personal hygiene, wearing of masks, social distancing, and cough etiquette is strictly adhered to by the employees; and
    - 1.6.3 The LDoE will closely monitor the employee's symptoms on return to work.

## **2. How can you prevention an infection?**

The following can provide protection against infection from Coronaviruses and many other viruses that are more common in South Africa:

- 2.1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 2.2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- 2.3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 2.4. Stay at home when you are sick and try and keep a distance from others at home.
- 2.5. Using a simple disinfectant on all reachable surfaces is a good idea.



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- 2.4. Stay at home when you are sick and try and keep a distance from others at home.
- 2.5. Using a simple disinfectant on all reachable surfaces is a good idea.

- 2.6. Cover your cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin.

### **3. Handwashing Requires Five (5) Simple Steps:**

- 3.1. Wet: Put both your hands under clean, running water.
- 3.2. Lather: Apply a generous amount of soap to the inside and back of your hands as well as your fingertips. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds (sing happy birthday) and don't forget to wash under jewelry and fingernails. Your fingertips are especially important as people often put their fingers on their face, nose, and eyes. This is how the virus spreads.
- 3.3. Scrub: Rub both hands together and move your fingertips around both hands. You don't need a scrub brush. You don't need to make harsh, scrubbing movements.
- 3.4. Rinse: Return both hands to the running water and gently wash away the soap.
- 3.5. Dry: Completely dry the water from your hands. Using a disposable towel (paper towel) is best to avoid leaving germs on towels. Air dryers, commonly found in public bathrooms, are also effective.

### **4. When Do I Need To Wash My Hands?**

Hand washing throughout the day is important, but even more important during an outbreak. Always remember to wash your hands in these situations:

- 4.1. Before leaving the bathroom — both at home and in public bathrooms;
- 4.2. After shaking hands during flu season and virus outbreaks;
- 4.3. Before, during, and after preparing food, especially raw food;
- 4.4. Before eating food;
- 4.5. Before and after caring for someone who is sick with symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea;
- 4.6. Before and after treating a cut or wound;
- 4.7. After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- 4.8. After touching garbage;
- 4.9. After putting on your shoes;
- 4.10. After using public computers, touching public tables and countertops, cash and coins, other people's phones, etc;
- 4.11. Cover your cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin; and
- 4.12. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## 5. How long does Coronavirus live on surfaces or outside of the body?

The study found Coronavirus can last up to:

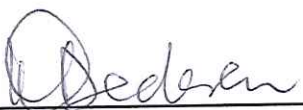
- 5.1. 4 hours on copper;
- 5.2. 24 hours on cardboard;
- 5.3. 2 to 3 days on plastic and stainless steel;
- 5.4. It may be possible to transmit the infection by touching a contaminated surface or;
- 5.5. By breathing it from the air, but this does not prove that air transmission actually happens under real-world circumstances; and
- 5.6. Using a simple disinfectant on all reachable surfaces is a good idea.

## 6. How can an infection be transmitted?

It may be possible to transmit the infection by:

- 6.1. Touching a contaminated surface, breathing it from the air, but does not prove that air transmission actually happens under real-world circumstances;
- 6.2. Not washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or not using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- 6.3. Touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- 6.4. Close contact with people who are sick; and
- 6.5. Not keeping a distance from others; including at home.

**Approved**



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**Ms. Dederen KO**

**Acting HOD**

10/06/2020  
Date