

Management of COVID-19 in schools during winter season

Owing to the anticipated third wave of COVID-19 infections, the Department consulted with labour in an effort to mitigate the impact of the virus. Subsequently, the following measures will be implemented at schools with immediate effect:

- Visits by parents, SGBs, marketing companies, community structures, and motivational talks at schools are prohibited;
- Sporting activities remain suspended as per the Department of Basic Education's directive;
- Learners and employees must continue to adhere to COVID-19 protocols, including continuous wearing of masks, daily screening, washing and/or sanitising of hands and observation of social distancing, without failure; and
- Learners must receive their meals in classrooms with the observation of social distance.

Schools are furthermore advised to strictly comply with 2020 revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in case of suspicion/confirmation of COVID-19 infections. Further, local health officials must be contacted immediately. Although the Department is not imposing restriction on travels, schools that have planned tours during the winter vacation are urged to reconsider in the interest of learners' health.

The proactive approach of the Department and consultation with the labour is highly commendable and will go a long way in saving the lives of employees and learners.

Those who want to join the PSA and members with challenges can contact the following persons: Provincial Secretary: Matlala on 060 530 7869/bophelobyannete@gmail.com and Deputy Secretary: Ditsele at 083 698 8758/ditselemating@gmail.com. Alternatively, members can contact the PSA's Organising/Marketing Officers: Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957/Paulina.moloto@psa.co.za and Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995/lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za or call the PSA Office on (015) 295 0500. Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER