

COVID-19 positive cases

The PSA was alerted that there were COVID-19 confirmed cases at the Department's Head Office, Works Towers in Polokwane. Subsequently, employees were released, and the building closed to allow for disinfection and implementation of safety protocols. Contact tracing is underway to ensure containment of the virus. Employees are expected to return to work on Monday, 12 July 2021.

Although the employer is commended for timeous communication, compliance with COVID-19 regulations in that tracking and tracing were implemented, and workers were released to facilitate disinfection of the workplace, the PSA is concerned about the increase in COVID-19 infections at the Department since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The implementation of a rotation system will assist with decongestion of the workplace and where positive cases are experienced, services would not totally be disrupted. The PSA has called on the employer on numerous occasions to ensure implementation of COVID-19 protocols, including reduction of employees in the workplace, but without success.

The PSA wishes infected employees a speedy recovery. Members are urged to constantly wear masks, sanitise or wash hands with soap, observe social distancing, limit movements whilst on duty or away from work and avoid social gatherings and congested places. Members are advised that if they do not feel well, to immediately report to their employer and to request permission to stay away from work, and consult a doctor.

Shop stewards are urged to constantly monitor compliance with COVID-19 regulations, OHS matters and address other workplace challenges. Matters that cannot be resolved must be escalated to the PSA Provincial Office at queen.seema@psa.co.za or (015) 295 0500.

GENERAL MANAGER