

COVID-19 regulations compliance

Department of Health

The PSA visited clinics around Mankweng, Lebowakgomo, Seshego and Botlokwa Hospital as part of monitoring compliance with COVID-19 regulations. The PSA found that although there is general compliance with safety protocols, including provision of sanitisers at strategic areas and screening of visitors, the provision of the PPE is still a problem. Employees are provided with only two N95 masks and are expected to use these for a week, which is concerning for the PSA as research has shown that when reused for more than two days, nearly half of N95 masks fail. Therefore, the insistence of medical employees to use these masks for periods exceeding two days compromise their safety. Further, administration clerks and data captures were not provided with adequate face shields. During the PSA's visit, we found nurses wearing patients gowns instead of the proper PPE at both Lebowakgomo Hospital. Engagement with the employer is underway to ensure that it fully complies with COVID-19 protocols.

Emergency Medical Services

The employer issued a new shift system without consulting labour, which is problematic and undermines labour. Shop stewards were inundated with enquiries and could not provide answers as the rationale of the new shift system remains unknown to them. The PSA subsequently requested an urgent meeting with the EMS Director and the response is awaited.

Mankweng COGSHTA

Clerks were not provided with adequate face shield and there is no active and functional OHS/Steering Committee. Engagement is underway to resolve this problem.

Members are urged to report all issues of non-compliance to shop stewards/OHS representatives of COVID-19 Committee members. If none exists at your institution, kindly report to queen.seema@psa.co.za or send SMS/Whatsapp to 082 880 8995. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER