

Update: Schools re-opening and vaccination

The relaxation of lockdown levels resulted in the recent re-opening of schools, however, Covid-19 cases are not yet fully under control. The PSA will continue to engage the Department of Education in making sure that schools observe Covid-19 safety regulations and appreciation is given to schools who have made strides in limiting learner numbers in classes, with some going as far as having a rotation of morning classes and afternoon classes while others have weekly rotation.

The PSA acknowledges that the Department of Education in North West has registered 53 348 employees for vaccination, since the start of the vaccination process of employees of the Education Department. Since 26 June 2021, around 27 335 employees have already been fully vaccinated which constitutes 51.24% of all those who have registered, while around 816 employees are awaiting a second jab. With the Department of Health reporting that they have increased vaccination sites, more Educators are encouraged to vaccinate in order to curb the spread of the virus.

There are however Educators who have not registered to be vaccinated due to personal and religious beliefs. Although it is acknowledged that it is of paramount importance that as many as people as possible be vaccinated, in order to reach herd immunity against the virus, the right of individuals not to be vaccinated should be acknowledged since the *Bill of Rights* stipulates people's rights to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right to security in and control over their body.

Members are encouraged to report non-compliance of safety protocols at schools immediately to their respective shop stewards including ELRC Provincial Chairperson Japhta Moate at moatejd@gmail.com and Abram Moribe at abram.moribe@psa.co.za.

GENERAL MANAGER