

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**

09-03-2022

OHS compliance and COVID-19 regulations

The employer reported the outcome of discussions with parties at the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee responsible for the management of COVID-19 and compliance with relevant regulations. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) issued *Circular 5 of 2022*, which directs Departments to move towards 100% return to office, with the exclusion of employees with co-morbidities. The *Circular* further indicates that the only people who should isolate and quarantine are those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are showing symptoms as well as persons who were in contact with a person who tested positive only when they are also showing symptoms.

In light of the said *Circular*, it was decided that a gradual increase from alert-level 3 until 100% return of staff at level 1 will be implemented. Employees with co-morbidities may be required to report on specific intervals as a way to touch base with the office. The maximum capacity for lifts will be increased from three to four persons and for kitchens from three to five during alert-level 1. Contact tracing will continue for record purposes and for monitoring effectiveness of COVID-19 protocols. Isolation will be for employees who test positive and their contacts if they present symptoms. The employer is required to ensure building and employee readiness by deep cleaning the building, conducting OHS inspections, and activate parking procedures, amongst others.

Submission of matter of interest

Members are urged to submit issues of interest or any work-related concerns for the PSA to take forward. Such issues may be sent to the PSA directly at joseph.mashigo@psa.co.za, alternatively to any PSA shop steward in the Department. In an event that a member wants to raise any issue and remain anonymous, such issues can be sent through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCV73HX>.

Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER