

FOR PSA MEMBERS: OFFICE OF HEALTH STANDARDS COMPLIANCE (OHSC)

29-07-2022

Feedback: Steering Committee Meeting - 27 July 2022

Members are aware that the Committee did not meet since 2020 after disagreement between labour and the employer, which led to the suspension of all activities of the Committee. Subsequently, a meeting was convened to consider the Occupational Health and Safety and COVID-19 reports. The employer reported that only two employees tested positive for COVID-19 and have fully recovered and returned to work. Further, no one has lost their life owing to COVID-19. The employer also reported that 70% of staff received vaccines. During the COVID-19 state of disaster period, the employer managed to provide appropriate and adequate PPE, inclusive of sanitisers, to all employees and has continued since, despite the announcement to end the state of disaster.

Psycho-social support services will continue to be offered to all employees and their families in case of positive tests. The employer has continued with the implementation of rotation system wherein employees with necessary tools of trade are allowed to work from home. Officials from the Inspectorate section are now allowed to travel to other provinces. However, the employer has encouraged all employees to still ensure that they continue protecting themselves as and when they are doing their work outside the offices. Face-to-face meetings are allowed with necessary precautions as the pandemic is still upon us. A seven-day isolation period will still be applicable to those who test positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing will no longer be implemented.

The Committee will recommend to EXCO that rotation and work from home must continue as service delivery has not been adversely affected. A concern was raised regarding the Inspectorate Directorate that has recalled all employees whilst other sections are still on rotation. The employer committed to engage the manager to explore the possibility of restoring the rotation system. The report was subsequently endorsed by the Committee and will be tabled at the Bargaining Forum. Committee members also agreed that a 'floor-by-floor' walk will be conducted at a date to be determined for inspection and assessment of the offices to ensure compliance with the *OHS*A.

Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website (www.psa.co.za), send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact a PSA Provincial Offices.

GENERAL MANAGER