



INFORMUS

SINCE 1920
still driven by
SERVICE EXCELLENCE

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – WESTERN CAPE**

10-11-2023

Outbreak of Diphtheria at Pollsmoor's Medium A Centre

The PSA, representing thousands of Correctional Officers in the Department of Correctional Services, is extremely concerned about the safety of our members, following an outbreak of Diphtheria at Pollsmoor's Medium A Centre in the Western Cape.

Diphtheria is a highly contagious, infectious disease caused by *Corynebacterium Diphtheria*. It can lead to difficulty in breathing, increased heart rhythm and may even result in death. According to information received by the PSA, Pollsmoor has recorded one death of an inmate, with many more inmates and members possibly being infected. It was also reported that at least ten Correctional Officers are awaiting test outcomes on possible infection.

The Department is responsible for ensuring a safe working environment and the PSA has urged the Department to immediately take appropriate steps to prevent further spreading of this disease.

Enquiries have been made to the Area Commissioner of Pollsmoor on what reasonable steps the Department intends to take to ensure the safety of Correctional Officers. The PSA will closely monitor the situation whilst a response is being awaited.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER