

## Update: COVID-19 - Various schools

### **Balasi Primary School: Qumbu**

The PSA visited the school on 12 April 2021 and discovered that classrooms not fit for human accommodation are used. The PSA engaged the school's acting Principal on her roles and responsibilities of ensuring the safety of learners, educators and staff at large. A demand was placed to the Principal to close the classrooms that are not fit for human accommodation and bring back rotational school attendance. The PSA followed up on this demand on 16 August 2021 and was informed that the school started with the rotational system whilst the issue of uncondusive classrooms is being attended to.

### **Shawbury Senior Secondary School: Qumbu**

The PSA learnt that a total of 70 learners, one educator and two non-teaching staff contracted COVID-19. At the time of reporting, the principal was said to be in engagements with the district and the Department of Health for a way forward. The PSA demanded that the school be decontaminated, close contacts to confirmed cases be quarantined, and learners and staff be tested for COVID-19.

### **Qumbu Village High School**

The PSA learnt that several Grade-12 learners contracted COVID-19. A decision was taken to discontinue physical lessons for Grade 12 as they are mostly affected.

### **Mchasa Senior Secondary School: Tsolo**

The school closed from 17 to 26 August 2021 after several learners contracted COVID-19. The school will be decontaminate during this period.

### **St Johns College: Mthatha**

A total of 88 learners tested COVID-19 positive. The school blundered in allowing staff to care for the positive learners on the school premises. The PSA objected to this and demanded the involvement of the Department of Health to assist as school staff are not trained to care for COVID-19 patients and do not have proper protective clothing for this task. The school is engaging the Department of Health as advised by the PSA.

The PSA is concerned about rising COVID-19 infections at schools and calls for COVID-19 vaccination for all learners.

GENERAL MANAGER