

Update: Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Committee (POHSC) meeting - 2 July 2021

A Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Committee (POHSC) meeting was held on 2 July 2021. The following points of discussion by means of reports from the employer were dealt with during the meeting:

- Consolidated POHSC
- ECCOVAC rollout strategy and plan
- PPE stock distribution
- COVID-19 contract workers update and implications
- Department of Employment and Labour COVID-19 related policies and new directive

In summary, based on the above reports and discussions, the following information needs to be brought to members' attention:

None of the COVID-19/ECCOVAC Contract workers' services will be terminated and have been extended. The employer is finalising the financial administration, contracts, funds and determining for how many months these contracts (stipend) will be extended. Members in this category must proceed to tender their services. If any of the members are not allowed to proceed with their services, they must contact the PSA immediately.

As a general principle, all vacant posts on the establishment must be filled. The provision of PPE must be reviewed by the Department. The Department undertook to attend to the cleansing of all facilities and will review all standard operating procedures to align these with the latest amended COVID-19 prescripts. The composition of the Technical Work Group at the ECDOH Head Office must be reviewed and strengthened as required by different workstreams. The ECDOH will ensure that risk assessments are done at various facility levels and that the OHS Committee must be informed.

Members must note that a decision was made by the POHSC that vaccination will not be mandatory to any individual, as the view is that it will violate individuals constitutional right. Further discussions on some of the items have been deferred to the next meeting to be held on 9 July 2021. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER