

Update: Meeting held on 12 May 2021 - International Labour Organisation Technical Work Group (ILO TWG) for EC Department of Health

Following an inspection conducted by a Departmental Employment and Labour inspector at Frere Hospital (East London – Eastern Cape), and the issuing of a Health and Safety Non-compliance certificate, the MEC of EC Health made a request to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for Technical support.

An International Labour Organisation Technical Work Group (ILO TWG) had been established on 17 September 2020, with representatives from the following institutions in attendance during the meeting:

- Department of Employment and Labour (National and Provincial)
- Department of Health EC
- Representatives from the Recognised Trade Unions
- ILO

On 21 April 2021, a meeting was held between the ILO TWG and the MEC of EC Health. During the meeting a presentation was given by the ILO TWG to the MEC with information relating to the progress made and support given by the ILO TWG in addressing and reducing the impact of COVID-19 in the Eastern Cape Health Sector.

The following concerns identified during visits to various Health facilities was discussed with the MEC:

- Some facilities have Policy frameworks but are not facility specific tailored
- There is limited communication on the Policy framework
- Only a few facilities have OHS committees in place
- There is a vague collaboration with Quality Assurance, Infection Prevention Control and Employee wellness
- There is a lack of OHS Coordinators
- Risk assessment and exposure profiling are non-existent
- Only some facilities have a COVID-19 Response Team
- OHS roles, responsibilities and accountability have not been formalised

- Poor OHS coordination
- Lack of OHS Training

During a meeting held with the ILO TWG on 12 May 2021 the ILO representative gave a verbal report to the DDG of ECDOH, consolidating the work done by the ILO TWG. It included the background, programme documents, progress report and mentioned a list of ILO guidelines relevant to the ILO TWG, to be made available on 13 May 2021.

Members will be updated on the progress made to remedy the above-mentioned concerns.

GENERAL MANAGER