

Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Committee (POHSC): Special meeting - 16 April 2021

A special meeting of the POHSC was held on 16 April 2021. Two agenda items were discussed for urgent rectification and noting.

State of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Province more especially in facilities

The state of OHS committees, especially in the facilities was the centre of attention as labour raised concerns that these are not functioning properly as expected. The employer echoed the sentiments as raised by labour and indicated that urgent control measures need to be instituted. Each Health facility will be requested to provide minutes of meetings held. These minutes will be verified and progress will be monitored by the POHSC.

Vaccination rollout and phase 2 rollout status

The Eastern Cape (EC) has a population of 6.7 million people. According to the WHO, to obtain mass immunity 67% of the population must be vaccinated. In the EC it implies that 4.5 million people must be vaccinated, while there are only 3.9 million people over the age of 18 years. This implies that the youth is expected to take extra precaution to protect the overall community. Safety has still not been confirmed for pregnant women, but the Pfizer vaccine is safe for persons 16 years and older and they may be vaccinated. Moving to phase 2, all persons above the age of 60 may register to be vaccinated. To implement phase 2 the structure/model used by the IEC will be used to provide healthcare facilities to all for vaccination purposes. The ECCOVAC Project entails a 20-step Road Map to vaccinate 4 million people in the EC. Within the next 7 to 10 working days it is expected that all Category 1 HCWs are to be vaccinated as well as 30% of Category 2 HCWs. The remaining Category 3 and 4 HCWs will be vaccinated in tandem with Phase 2 of the rollout.

Members above the age of 60 years are advised to register immediately. If assistance is needed on the process to follow, they can contact the PSA Provincial Offices in the Eastern Cape on 041 501 6800 and 047 501 2500.

GENERAL MANAGER