

## Labour meeting with MEC: COVID-19

### Gauteng Province Circular 6/2021

The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) issued the above Circular to Departments, which contains two important rules:

1. No contact meetings in Departments are allowed and all meetings must be done virtually.
2. No year-end functions are allowed, and employees are requested not to engage in such functions in their private time in groups as it will create super spreader events.

### COVID-19 and Gauteng Province

The following statistics have been provided:

- Active cases in GPG Departments – 1 253
- Positive cases for the fourth wave – 20 474
- Health 17 802
- Rest of GPG 2 672

### Vaccination level of staff employed at Gauteng Provincial Departments:

- Gauteng Education - 94% vaccinated
- Gauteng Health - 71% vaccinated
- Other departments vary from 15% to 60 % and this remains a serious concern.

The increase of vaccination is also very slow, and it appears that there is negativity between many GPG employees on vaccinations.

### Plan to increase vaccination for GPG employees

From January 2022 an intensified popularity campaign will be lodged in Departments. Vaccination sites will be placed at every Department building to make accessibility easy for employees. Door-to-door and desk-to-desk campaigns will also be done to educate employees on the benefits of vaccination. There is also a concern that the statistics may not be completely correct as employees fail to disclose when they are vaccinated. This makes the management of vaccination difficult, and members are requested to disclose their vaccination status to the employer.

Compulsory vaccination is only a point of discussion and is supported by many of the parties in the GPG. Although the PSA encourages members to get vaccinated, the Union does not support compulsory vaccination and believes that it should be an individual choice.

*The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to COVID-19 a safe and speedy recovery.*

GENERAL MANAGER