

Update: Non-compliance with COVID-19 protocols - District office

The PSA was alerted that an employee tested positive for COVID-19 at Waterberg District Office and after reporting to the employer, the employee was put in isolation as required by COVID-19 protocols. Unfortunately, the employer did not ensure that the workplace was disinfected. It just locked the office and expected the member to resume work after isolation. Isolation of employees who came in contact with the fellow employee was also not done. The member subsequently alerted the PSA of the employer's failure to disinfect the workplace.

Seeing that the employer was not taking the matter seriously, the PSA escalated the matter to the District Executive Manager who was unfortunately not available owing to prior work commitments. The PSA engaged the Department of Employment and Labour and a labour inspector promptly visited the workplace. However, management was not available to engage with the inspector and the inspector consequently issued a Notice of Inspection for 2 June 2021 at 09:00. The PSA will form part of the inspection team and the employer was advised to clean and disinfect the office to contain the spread of the virus.

Such behaviour is worrisome, especially in view of the increasing number of infections. The Department of Health should know better and is expected to advise other departments on COVID-19 protocols, making this behaviour unacceptable. The PSA will not be silenced when it comes to health and safety of workers. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER