

FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

24-08-2021

Concern over high number of COVID-19 cases in Northern Cape

The PSA noted with concern the high number of positive COVID-19 cases in Northern Cape schools. The Northern Cape is reaching the peak of COVID-19 infections and whilst infections seem to be low in comparison with other provinces, numbers are actually high when taking into account the ratio of infections compared with the population of the Northern Cape. The Northern Cape is reported to have 500 learners who are currently COVID-19 positive. Most schools in the Northern Cape are not able to accommodate the social distancing requirement. This results in schools resorting to a rotation system, but as PSA has consistently reported, the decontamination of schools and contact tracing continue to be major contributors to the problem. The PSA has always lamented the slackness of the Department regarding decontamination after positive cases are reported.

The PSA calls on the HOD to ensure the following:

- That schools revert to two-hourly sanitisation of surfaces and doors.
- Closing and decontamination of schools immediately when positive cases exceeding five learners are reported at a school.
- When a learner tests positive for COVID-19, the entire classroom's learners should be isolated and not just the one learner who tested positive.
- Regular decontamination of schools to curb the spread of the virus.

Educator members of the PSA are advised to alert the school management of cases immediately when these are noted. It is in the interest of everybody to curb the spread of the virus. Members can contact the PSA Provincial Office on (052) 839 1000 for advice.

GENERAL MANAGER