

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SALGA)**

10-03-2022

## SALGA Standard Operating Procedure and management of COVID-19

The employer reported that there is only one recently reported active case of COVID-19 in SALGA. Internal protocols to prevent COVID-19 infections in the workplace are still in place. The PSA enquired on SALGA's plans to recall staff back to the offices and it was indicated that EXCO will still take a decision. Further engagements were held on the issue of mandatory vaccination. The PSA expressed its stance that it does not support mandatory vaccination. The PSA is of the view that employees should not be compelled to vaccinate or be made to choose between keeping their jobs and vaccinating. In as much as the PSA encourages everyone to be vaccinated, it should be done voluntarily and not by compulsion. Further submissions will be sent to the employer to support the PSA's stance. Members are welcome to continue sharing their views with the PSA as requested in the previous *Informus*.

### Possible relocation of Gauteng Office

An update on the possible relocation of the SALGA Gauteng Office was presented to the PSA. The employer has so far conducted an inspection *in loco* and whilst consultation is still proceeding, the lease agreement with the landlord has been extended. The options considered are to either establish a satellite office, which may require reduced staffing, reduced space and rental as well as the setting up of hot desks. Alternatively, employees may be moved to the Menlyn office. The move to Menlyn makes more business sense according to SALGA and will cut off rental costs and employees will have enough space to be accommodated. However, the PSA's concern with the option of moving employees to the Menlyn Office is the impact it may have on employees' personal circumstances in that most of them may have to travel a long distance from Johannesburg to Pretoria.

The Gauteng Provincial Executive Committee recommended that office space that would be accessible to employees should be sourced and that the views of the majority of employees be taken into consideration when the decision of office space for Gauteng staff members is made. A draft cost assessment for each affected employee was conducted and the draft report was presented. The PSA will convene a consultation meeting with affected employees in Gauteng to consult them on the matter to prepare for further engagements with the employer. Members will be kept informed.

GENERAL MANAGER