



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

To: All Staff

DEPARTMENTAL COVID-19 CIRCULAR 10 OF 2021: STRICT OBSERVATION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER MEASURES

1. The above subject matter bares reference.
2. As you may be aware, the reported number of daily COVID-19 cases in the country are now higher than they were at the peak of the first wave. With the advent of the highly infectious Omicron variant, the country has entered the fourth wave.
3. On 09 December 2021, there were 1 008 new cases reported in the Free State over a 24-hour period.
4. In the Department, there has also been a record-breaking number of COVID-19 infections among the staff, with a total number of 17 officials who tested positive in a single day.
5. The risk assessment conducted indicates that officials continue to come to work even when presenting with symptoms and that not all offices adhere to the screening protocols.
6. The delays in the decontamination of offices have caused panic and fear amongst officials, in the face of the increasing number of infections.
7. All officials are reminded to take absolute care in ensuring social distancing and to strictly adhere to preventative measures such as the wearing of masks and regular sanitization. Physical meetings should also be avoided and should only take place when there are no other alternatives and only when health and safety protocols are observed.
8. We implore on all officials to get vaccinated. The only way we stand a chance of defeating COVID-19 is by getting everyone vaccinated.

9. I rely on the dedication and co-operation of all officials to ensure that we are able to contribute in any way whatsoever to the prevention of the transmission of the virus from person to person.

10. The contents of this circular must be brought to the attention of all relevant employees in the Department.

Kind Regards



ADV. T. PHAHLO
ACTING HOD: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE:18/12/2021.....

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