

Questions sent out by SpotlightNSP 13 May 2020

Questions sent to Western Cape Department of Health

Spotlight is requesting comment from the Western Cape Department of Health regarding the death of a resident in the old age facility Sencit Resthaven in Strand due to COVID-19. There have also been reports of COVID-19 infections in other old age facilities (or Residential Care Facilities)

My questions are:

- How is the Western Cape DOH responding to these COVID-19 infections in old age care facilities?
- What is the department doing to support the old age facilities that have COVID-19 infections (particularly Sencit and the Nazareth House's facility that also has infections)?
- How is the DOH and the Western Cape Department of Social Development working together to contain the infections as well as keep infections out of old age facilities?
- Are the safety measures and precautions given to old age facilities still deemed sufficient, given that at least two facilities have COVID-19 infections? If so why?

Questions for Western Cape Department of Social Development

- Yesterday it was reported that a resident at a government old-age facility Sencit died of COVID-19 and a staff member was infected, what is DSD's response to this?
- Given this death, does DSD still think that its precautions are sufficient to keep COVID-19 infections out of old age facilities?
- Will DSD be investigating the matter of the infections at Sencit?
- Reports are emerging about more infections at facilities in the Western Cape such as the Nazareth home in Vredehoek, what is or will DSD be doing to assist facilities like this in containing the spread of COVID-19 infections?
- Is DSD looking into improving precautions, safety protocols and support to old age facilities? and if so what will this entail?

Questions for National Department of Social Development

- Given these deaths, does DSD still consider the safety measures and precautions to be sufficient to keep COVID-19 infections out of the facilities? If so, how is this justifiable given that there have been COVID-19 Infections in facilities?
- What support and communication has DSD been providing to the facilities it is responsible for?
 - Will DSD be providing additional support and communication to the old age facilities it is responsible for?
 - What precautions did DSD advise old age facilities to follow?
 - Have there been any other COVID-19 Infections in other old age facilities? If so where?

Questions to National Department of Health

-What is the DOH's response to the death of a resident in Sencit?

-Given the death and several infections present in at least two facilities, are the safety precautions and measures provided to the facilities still considered sufficient? If so how can these precautions still be seen as sufficient given the infections?

-Is the DOH planning on adapting precautions and safety measures implemented in these facilities. If so how?

-How is the DOH working with the Department of Social Development to support these facilities?

-Have there been COVID-19 infections in any other old age care facilities? If so where?