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Ascot Park Hospital	(031) 3748000
Richards Bay Medical Institute	(035) 7800240
Gandhi Mandela Nursing Academy	(031) 3093094
Citi-Med Ambulance	(031) 3091524
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24 June 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT : COVID INFECTIONS AT ISIPINGO HOSPITAL

Management at Isipingo Hospital is aware of inaccurate statements in the Tabloid newspapers and other media regarding the infection of staff at its facilities.

Management would like to advise that they had in accordance with guidelines stipulated immediately informed the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) regarding the infection of staff at the facility. Staff members who were infected were immediately informed to self-isolate. Management have been in constant contact with the infected staff and can confirm that they are stable and recovering. None of the staff members who required admission were ventilated as incorrectly reported in the media. Staff will remain in isolation in keeping with guidelines stipulated by NICD.

The areas in which the infected staff members worked have been terminally cleaned (sanitized) in accordance with infection control protocols. The NICD and DOH have also visited the Hospital and carried out a detail review of the Hospital's infection control processes. The Hospital continues to monitor the staff at the facility by daily screening and random testing of its work force.

All Hospitals had during the lockdown period required to comply with the State of Disaster regulations and reduce the activities at its facilities. This included the cancellation of non-emergency procedures and unfortunately resulted in the reduction in working hours for a number of employees. JMHL have during the lockdown period continued to pay its employees their full salaries despite some of them having not been at work or having worked reduced hours to comply with the lockdown regulations. The company had in keeping with the Department of Labour regulations made applications to the Unemployment Insurance fund under the TERS (Temporary Employer / Employee Relief Scheme) to assist with covering the shortfall in hours worked. Staff have been informed on the process by which the company is offsetting the short hours worked against TERS funding received and annual leave where applicable. Any staff member who has any queries in this regard is encouraged to contact Hospital Management for further details.

We at JMHL are fully committed to complying with guidelines stipulated by the various regulatory authorities and in ensuring that our Healthcare Workers who are at the forefront of looking after our ill patients, are cared for most especially during this pandemic which is affecting millions across the globe.

VISHNU RAMPARTAB
GROUP GENERAL MANAGER