



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2022

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INTERDICTS STRIKING WORKERS

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) this afternoon obtained a court interdict at the Johannesburg Labour Court against several unions to prevent their members from obstructing the rendering of health services to patients.

The interim interdict is applicable with immediate effect and prevents striking public servants from assaulting, threatening, intimidating, and inciting violence in respect to any employees or staff members across our health facilities. It also prohibits the protesters from destroying or damaging any property or preventing free movement or access to health care facilities of any of GDoH offices.

Earlier today, provision of services in some parts of the province, particularly in Sebokeng Hospital in Sedibeng and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) in Johannesburg health districts were impacted due to the national public service protest action.

At the CHBAH, the protest action resulted in the cancelation of all elective surgeries planned for the day and only one emergency theatre was operational. The hospital also worked with minimal staff in critical areas including Maternity, Theatres, Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department. Sebokeng Hospital also operated with skeleton staff after nurses and doctors, as well as administrative staff were prevented from entering the facility by the protesters.

The Gauteng Emergency Medical Services personnel were on standby, transporting patients with emergencies to alternative facilities.

The situation improved in the afternoon and GDoH continues to closely monitor the impact of the protest on facilities.

The South African Police Service has been ordered to assist the Department where necessary to enforce the interim order which will remain in effect pending the court return date of 1 March 2023.

Ends

Issued by Gauteng Department of Health

For more information, contact Motalatale Modiba, Head of Communication on 064 803 0808 or mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za
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