

Incident Learning: COVID-19 Positive Test Result

- An employee was experiencing sleeping disorders and nervousness like symptoms and went to his GP.
- The patient was routine tested for covid-19 during pre-admission preparations for Sleep Apnea investigation at a sleeping laboratory.
- The test result was issued 24 hours later indicating a positive result.
- The patient reported the result immediately to the line manager upon notification from the GP.
- The patient received the test results on the Sunday and did not return to work.
- Actual and potential consequences
 - One positive infected employee
 - 16 first line contacts (potentially infected)

Immediate actions and learning?

- The Site contact tracing team was activated and began immediately to categorise the various people who has been in contact with the individual..
- A total of 16 first line contacts were identified of which 5 was work related and sent home in terms of the Sasol COVID-19 protocols.
 - These employees are in self quarantine for 14 days and will be tested before returning to the workplace.
- Secondary contacts who had exposure to first line contacts were also identified and are being monitored by the employer.
- The affected building was sanitised and cleaned before occupants could return to the workshop the next day.

Learning:

- Source of exposure could not be determined for patient zero. The patient tested again and tested negative in 2 consecutive tests.
- The employee organised a party at his house and was exposed to 2 of the 1st contacts who attended the gathering. (Friday evening – tests results received on the Sunday
- Large gatherings must be avoided as far as possible and if attended, stringent hygiene principles must be adhered to at all times.
- 1st contacts were identified mainly due to poor social distancing and non-adherence to face protection practices during social interaction.