



March 19, 2020

To Unifor Local 229 Employer,

In the past 10 days, the situation regarding COVID-19 had moved quickly and created an unprecedented situation for many working people and Unifor Local 229 members. We appreciate the incredible effort and work being done by our employers during this time.

In an effort to support our members, your employees, we are gathering information in order to share it with our membership in townhall conference call meetings over the next week.

We are requesting up-to-date information including the following:

1. Have you or will you be laying off any Unifor Local 229 members due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Please include lists of members and dates of layoff.
2. What is your current position on self-isolation for members, are the members being paid, are they using sick leave or any other leave credits?
3. Are you open for regular business, are you having members work from home? If so, are they working their regular hours?
4. What measures are you taking to ensure the safety and well being of our members in the workplace? This would include screening practices, personal protective equipment, social distancing etc.
5. Please provide the current contact for Unifor Local 229 if further information is required.

As we move forward in the coming weeks and months, any decision made now may be subject to the grievance procedure in the future. This measure will help us hold timelines and ensure, once the immediate situation settles down, the ability to work out resolves to possible complaints.

Please note the following as formal notice to grieve violations of our collective agreement and any legislation deemed applicable by the Union. Unifor Local 229's formal position to our employers are as follows:

1. Keep our members safe, protected and informed
2. Keep our members whole, members need to keep being paid their regular wages, their benefits need to be kept current
3. Allow accommodations for members who have health concerns or childcare concerns
4. Be reasonable, just, fair and equitable prior to making decisions affecting our members and our communities

Unifor Local 229 and Unifor Canada has adopted an all hands-on deck approach to supporting members during these challenging and uncertain times. We have worked every day to answer questions, communicate with employers, and call on governments to flatten the curve and respect working people in this time of crisis.

Unifor will continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across our region, as well as the sectors



and workplaces of our union.

We have listed below some resources that will be of help to you and your employees.

COVID-19 Web Page

Visit www.unifor.org/covid19 for the most up to date union information, resources, and news on the coronavirus. At this point in the crisis, new information is posted daily, including a growing list of sector-specific backgrounders.

Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19

If you have questions about EI sickness benefits, work absences, in-person meetings, and refusing work? Look no further. Unifor's FAQ on COVID-19 has the answers that union representatives need to represent workers during this crisis.

[Download the FAQ \(PDF\)](#)

COVID-19 Checklist for income replacement

This checklist sets out the possible measures that may be available for income replacement events including sickness due to COVID-19, isolation or quarantine, family care obligations, and layoff or business closures.

[Download the checklist \(PDF\)](#)

Unifor Local 229 leadership and service representatives are currently working on scheduling mass townhall conference calls for each workplace of our Local union. Once we have identified dates and times for each workplace, we will forward this to employers.

The leadership of Unifor Local 229 as well as our national union will continue to advocate on behalf of Unifor members and all workers as we demand greater protections for workers to prevent the spread and lessen the impacts of the pandemic.

Thank you for your dedication and solidarity.

In solidarity,

Kari Jefford, President Unifor Local 229
kari@unifor229.com

Suzanne Pulice, Vice-President Unifor Local 229
suzanne@unifor229.com

Angie Martz, Financial Secretary Unifor Local 229
angie@unifor229.com

Lisa Fleming, Service Rep Unifor Local 229
lisa@unifor229.com