



March 25, 2020

To Unifor Local 229 Membership,

Since our last membership memo, the situation regarding COVID-19 continues to move quickly and continues to create an unprecedented situation for many working people and Unifor Local 229 members.

Unifor Local 229 and Unifor Canada continue to provide an all hands on deck approach to supporting members during these challenging and uncertain times. We continue to work 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.

Unifor Local 229 leadership and service representatives have and continue to host mass townhall conference calls for each workplace of our Local union. This memo serves as a general update for all members and includes specific information discussed during workplace townhall calls relevant to your workplace.

We have sent notice to employers requesting wage enhancements and premiums for our members working through the COVID pandemic, requested updated information on PPE, screening procedures and any changes to staffing or workplace processes. We have discussed current vacation banks, next year's vacation schedules and processes as well as overtime and leaves for members with childcare, or those who are isolating. Most employers are responding in a reasonable timeline and this information is being shared with Unit Chairs and Stewards. Hospitals and Long-Term Care providers in Ontario have been placed under emergency orders and legislation by Ontario Public Health. This may impact our members working in these facilities. Please find updated information on our website or speak with your workplace stewards or unit chair.

There continues to be changes to personal protection equipment protocols by the World Health Organization. We are utilizing the most current information from the Ontario.ca website and the Public Health Unit websites. Updated scientific and epidemiological evidence demonstrates, that routes of transmission for COVID-19 are through droplet/contact. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through the airborne route. Airborne precautions (N95 masks) are not required to prevent transmission unless a health care provider is performing or anticipating performing an aerosol generating procedure (for example: tracheotomy care, suctioning). Employers are responsible to ensure personal protective equipment is available where necessary. Employers are being required to supply up to date information to the Ontario government on PPE supplies and requirements within each workplace. For up-to-date, accurate information and resources follow this link to the Unifor.org website. https://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/documents/document/covid_faq_en.pdf



Members who may require accommodations from employers based on childcare, or medical conditions, should report this to your occupational health officer or supervisor or managers as soon as possible. If you require assistance, please contact a workplace steward or unit chair. If further assistance is required, they will contact the service representative in our office.

Unifor Local 229 has pulled together resources for supports in mental health, addictions and crisis supports as well as foodbank and food programs for you to share. They should be posted on the Unifor 229 website and on your union information boards.

Please watch for updated postings and current information being posted on your union. Visit our National Unifor website via www.Unifor.org or Unifor Local 229 website via www.unifor229.com for more information.

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,

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