For OPEIU Local 8 members at Behavioral Health Resources

March 19, 2020

During all the uncertainty of our current health crisis I wanted to reach out and let you know what the Union is doing to protect you and your rights.

The Union has been in constant contact with **Ian Harrel,** *Chief Operating Officer* about what procedures have been put into place. BHR does have a legal obligation to discuss and negotiate any policies and procedures that they are implementing due to COVID-19. The topics that are forefront on my list of concerns are:

- Your safety and assurance that you are being equipped with effective Personal Protection Equipment (PPE);
- Limiting your exposure and risk to contracting this virus;
- Your income to be kept whole (pay and benefits) – whether you can work, or not; and
- The ability to telecommute if this is a possibility with your position.

The Governor and state officials are working non-stop on instituting new policies and aid to help families in this state remain healthy and on solid financial ground. This information is CONSTANTLY changing and may look different in a day or two, but right now these are the links for you to use:

Washington State Labor Council COVID-19 Resources for Workers
https://www.wslc.org/covid-19/

Latest COVID-19 scenarios and benefits available, waiting periods have now been waived for unemployment benefits.

https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19

If you have a reduction in hours due to this virus, please apply for Unemployment Insurance:
https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment

If you are exposed at work and contract the virus, please apply for Workers Compensation:
https://www.lni.wa.gov/

If you are exposed at home and contract the virus, please apply for Washington State Paid and Family Medical Leave:
http://www.paidleave.wa.gov/

As I learn more information, I will be sending out further communications. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me via email shelby@opeiu8.org and or by phone 206-448-2615.

In Solidarity,

Shelby Mooney, Union Representative

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