

**Union** ★  
**Update**



*For OPEIU Local 8 members at Willapa Harbor Hospital*

*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 the hospital and the hospital 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/>

**Below is the 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/>

**Employee contribution for WA State Paid Family and Medical Leave begins.**

To ensure Union Members are eligible for Washington State Paid Family and Medical Leave the Union and the Employer have signed a Letter of Understanding which has been sent onto the State Commissioner of Employment Security Department notifying the department of the LOU that states that the employer and employee will start paying into this leave on all hours worked starting March 8, 2020. Prior to the signing of this LOU you would not have been eligible for these benefits until after your contract expired and a new agreement had been signed, no sooner than July 1, 2020. The hospital and the Union tried to enter an agreement sooner, but were told it would not be recognized; but the rules changed, so an agreement will now be recognized. The link below will show you what your portion of the premium will be deducted on your next check.

<https://resources.paidleave.wa.gov/premium-calculator>

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](mailto:shelby@opeiu8.org) and or by phone 206-448-2615.

In Solidarity,

Shelby Mooney, Union Representative

