

March 3, 2020

Hello OPEIU LOCAL 8 Member working at
Washington State Ferries:

As more cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) are discovered/reported in Washington, I am working to determine whether your employer has an emergency response plan in place and whether they have a policy to address infectious diseases and/or pandemics.

If your employer does not have a specific policy or has a policy but one that fails to address key points, I will issue a "demand to bargain" over the issue. During this time, it is the Union's position that employers should greatly increase the ability for employees to telecommute. In addition, the Union will fight for employees to receive paid administrative leave if the employer temporarily closes an office rather than making it so employees have to burn through accrued sick/vacation/paid time off or take leave without pay.

Remember, if you are exposed at work, you should apply for Workers Comp. If you are exposed outside of work, you would utilize sick/vacation/paid time off, possibly including Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Sincerely,
Valarie Peaphon
Union Representative
OPEIU LOCAL 8
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