

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For OPEIU Local 8 members at City of Ellensburg and Ellensburg Library

March 17, 2020

Amid 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.

A Demand to Bargain has been filed with your employer. By filing this, the employer has 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 contacting 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:

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/>

I read this article this morning and it had some great information for you and your co-workers:

<https://www.thestand.org/2020/03/unemployment-benefits-available-for-laid-off-quarantined-workers/>

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 or phone.

In Solidarity,

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OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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