

**Union** ★  
**Update**

**OPEIU**  
Local



*for OPEIU Local 8 members at Providence Regional Medical Center*

## **Our Union's Response to COVID-19**

### **You Are Our Heroes**

Thank you, from all of your fellow union brothers and sisters, for the courageous work you continue to do. Your commitment, compassion, dedication and resolve are an example to us all. Your bravery ensures that the rest of us are kept safe and well.

Your staff has been working to secure the best protections, working conditions and benefits around COVID-19. Whether it's bargaining with an employer or helping to create workplace procedures during the pandemic, your health, safety and well-being are our top priorities.

We have created a COVID-19 Information page on our website to help explain the different kinds of benefits available to you at the local, state and national level. You can find a link to this information on our homepage or follow the link here:

<https://www.opeiu8.org/Home/COVID-19Information.aspx> (COVID-19 Information)

### **We Stand United and our Petition is our Voice**

OPEIU Local 8 remains in coalition with UFCW 21, SEIU 1199 NW and WSNA. Together we are coordinating our bargaining efforts over COVID-19 issues. We are presenting the same goals as we negotiate with Providence all over the state. These principles are captured in a petition that we are sharing with co-workers, friends and community neighbors. Please click on

[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stand-with-health-care-workers?source=direct\\_link&referrer=SEIU1199](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stand-with-health-care-workers?source=direct_link&referrer=SEIU1199) and sign the petition. Together we are strong!

### **We Continue to Fight**

Members of the OPEIU Bargaining Team have been meeting with Management since last month to discuss health and safety issues and to bargain the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on bargaining unit members. We continue to push PRMCE to exceed their obligations under our Collective Bargaining Agreement. So far, PRMCE has implemented:

- Immediate use of EIB benefits
- 80-hour Paid Emergency Time Off as additional paid leave through May 31
- Administrative Leave Pay through April if your department is shut down and there is no work for you through the redeployment process
- Night Shift Rotation Bonus for Environmental Services and Floor Technician employees
- Extra Shift Bonus for CNAs in acute care units and ED Techs working an extra shift
- All bargaining unit members may now wear masks – even caregivers not previously permitted

### **You Deserve More**

- Surge Pay Premium for all job classifications
- Subsidized low cost childcare for all caregivers
- Expanded availability and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment
- More opportunities for telecommuting from home

Though much of our time and attention has been dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to work on finalizing our new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## We Want to Hear From You

Now more than ever, it's so important we stay connected. Please continue to reach out to your Union Reps, Ida at [ida@opeiu8.org](mailto:ida@opeiu8.org) or Patrick at [patrick@opeiu8.org](mailto:patrick@opeiu8.org), or your Member Support Representative Phoebe at [phoebe@opeiu8.org](mailto:phoebe@opeiu8.org), with questions, concerns or to report contract violations. As we head into uncertain times, we need to depend on our shared courage, strengths and determination to protect our families, friends, neighbors.

Stay safe and well.

Your OPEIU Local 8 Family

Visit our website



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STAY CONNECTED

