

April 6, 2019

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



for OPEIU Local 8 members at Sea Mar

We know this is a scary and stressful time. Please know, OPEIU is taking this pandemic very seriously. Your health and safety are paramount to us. We continue to meet with Sea Mar and negotiate both the employer's response to COVID-19 as well as the successor union contract.

Historically, under more normal circumstances, we negotiate a COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase which all members receive the first pay period of April. However, Sea Mar has indicated financial difficulty given the business slowdown and lack of demand due to COVID-19. Sea Mar has stated that productivity is down and nearly all programs are operating at a loss. In light of this, we are trying to determine the best path forward. We want to ensure that all current staff stay employed and continue to be covered by Sea Mar health care. While we continue to bargain with Sea Mar, we have signed a one-month contract extension. This means the current contract is now in effect through April 30th. You can find it on our website www.opeiu8.org.

Even though you are deemed an essential employee, your employer still has a responsibility to adhere to Governor Inslee's proclamations regarding social distancing requirements! We have heard from Medical Assistants, Receptionists, HIM Clerks and others that your work stations do not afford you six (6) feet of space from one another. If this is the case, please alert your supervisor to this health and safety concern as soon as possible. Sea Mar must take this seriously. If they do not work to correct the situation immediately, please contact your Union Representative. You can also directly report employer violations online at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/09349a1c56844b539fea1c2cabd16d56>

Are you having difficulty with your unemployment claim? Contact the Unemployment Law Project for help at <https://unemploymentlawproject.org> or 1 (888) 441-9178. Please remember, unemployment insurance can provide temporary income to partly replace lost wages but it does not replace 100% of lost wages.

If you are severely ill with COVID-19 or if you are caring for a sick family member, you can apply for Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave at www.paidleave.wa.gov.

If you are mildly ill with COVID-19, or are immune-compromised and advised to self-quarantine, or have reduced hours, you can apply for unemployment insurance benefits at www.esd.wa.gov.

OPEIU Local 8 wants to lend a helping hand. We have a Hardship Fund in place to assist when and where we can. The fund has limited resources but it is our goal to provide assistance to members who are experiencing an immediate, severe and temporary financial situation. It is for members who've suffered an emergency or catastrophic situation that has caused a temporary, sudden and non-recurring financial shortfall that may be the result of a natural disaster, immediate family crisis, or acute illness or injury. Application guidelines and instructions can be accessed on our website: <https://www.opeiu8.org/RightsResources/HardshipFundandResources.aspx>

Questions? Contact your Union Representatives:

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Shelby Mooney, Union Representative, 206-448-2615, Shelby@opeiu8.org

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Visit our website



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