



March 17, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Local 755,

A few days ago, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 (coronavirus) had become a pandemic ushering in a new phase of the virus outbreak. Two days later, President Trump declared a National Emergency due to the spread of coronavirus within the U.S. Since then, everything has changed. Entertainment and sporting events have been canceled or delayed, schools and courts are closing, churches are doing services on-line, businesses including restaurants have limited service, bars are closing, and the list goes on. This virus is impacting every facet of all of our lives.

We want you to know that the safety, health, and security of our members is our top priority. We have already begun proactively meeting with employers and will continue to meet with them throughout this crisis to discuss the impact of the coronavirus at each work site and what we can do to protect our members.

We are also receiving calls from concerned members asking questions about contractual rights, like seniority, leaves of absence, and attendance points. In addition, members are asking questions about what to do if they become sick with the virus, whether they will have jobs or will be laid off, what state or federal benefits they may be entitled to receive, and other questions related to the pandemic. We are attaching a copy of the EDD FAQs which gives excellent information about benefits that you may be eligible to receive.

There are many resources available for those who need help. One very good resource is the March 9th publication from the California Labor Federation which includes links for many assistance programs, such as food, rental and utility assistance. The Article "Coronavirus Outbreak Resources and Information for Workers" is available on their website at calaborfed.org. Since the situation is rapidly evolving, and guidelines, information, and procedures are changing daily, we are also providing links to three websites, which will provide updates and additional information:

- https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm
- <https://www.labor.ca.gov/Coronavirus2019/>
- [Daily updates from the California Department of Public Health](#)

Finally, if you have questions, please phone or email us.

In Solidarity,

Chuck Cortez

Business Manager

Plasterers & Shop Hands Local 755

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