

Email Update_4.2.2020

First, we'd like to take the opportunity to again thank all of our members for your continued service during this unprecedented time. We understand how difficult things are, and we applaud each and every one of you for continuing to serve those in need. Thank you for your continued patience with our officers and staff as we also navigate these unknown waters.

We've listed a number of updates for both Local and State shops below. If you have additional questions, we ask that you please review the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website (<http://www.seiu668.org/covid19/>) or email additional questions to Local668@seiu668.org where we can direct it to the appropriate staff member.

Blair County CYS

Our CYS members in Blair have called-out their commissioners over the lack of planning and poor implementation of health and safety policies. Since going to the press, we've learned that Commissioners have been sharing misleading information with the public and our members. We will continue to support these members as they fight against bad management.

Read more here: <https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2020/04/union-critical-of-county-rules/>

DOC

Last week, we came to an agreement with the Department of Corrections that our members inside SCIs could begin working on Alternative Work Schedules to allow the needed flexibility to continue to report to work while still taking care of their families and children at home. However, we learned this week that Sec. Wetzel is allowing the individual superintendents from each SCI to implement AWS as they see fit. This means that some SCIs have flexible schedules while others are flat-out refusing to make any changes. We sent an open letter to DOC calling for the uniformed implementation of AWS immediately so that our members can continue their essential jobs while also handling childcare needs at home.

Learn more now: http://www.seiu668.org/files/2020/04/DOC-Email-Update_4.1.20.pdf

DHS

We learned earlier this afternoon that DHS is expanding their telework trial for CAOs and PCs as early as next week. 84 members will be testing out the network and capabilities--these members can elect to be part of the trial by seniority for now. A [complete list of these shops](#) included in the trials can be found on the [Commonwealth Units](#) page on our website (<http://www.seiu668.org/covid-19-su/>). In addition to the expanded telework, we've learned that the Paid Office Closings will continue for an additional week.

UC

As of 5PM this evening, our Unemployment Compensation members are now facing a daunting 980,267 new claims for unemployment. This is a number that has never, in our knowledge, been seen in Pennsylvania. Our UC members are facing an unprecedented workload right now, plus they've begun recruiting recent retirees to help assist with the claims. We're going to be pushing the General Assembly hard for better, faster legislation to better-assist our UC workers. You can find a recent op-ed from member Chris Good here: <https://www.penncapital-star.com/commentary/covid-19-in-pa-gov-tom-wolf-state-lawmakers-need-to-step-up-to-protect-frontline-workers-opinion/>

Federal Act Implementation

We learned late this afternoon that CoP will be issuing clear guidance on the new federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCR) in the next few hours. We expect an email with detailed

Email Update_4.2.2020

information coming Friday morning and will update our website with that when it is received. As we get information on how FFCR and CARES Acts will impact our Local Unit members, we'll provide those updates as well.

Member Health and Safety

As we continue to negotiate with employers over what and how to implement COVID-19 health and safety policies, it's important to remember that we ultimately want our members working to provide services, but only if our members are protected. To that point, Health and Safety Chair Cheryl Little penned this op-ed about continuing operations and dangers to workers during the ongoing pandemic.

Read it here: https://www.ncnewsonline.com/opinion/columns/cheryl-little-pennsylvania-agency-leaving-thousands-of-workers-at-risk/article_30692857-077c-5bed-a3eb-224e949f7268.html?fbclid=IwAR03Qn6Wt1AfO8QFz57CWID6H9raq28EzKpUBTGwGHIWoH3XWtx3KatmxI0

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

As of this afternoon, SEIU Local 668 knows of several members who have tested positive for COVID-19. Each of our members have individually contacted their Business Agent as well as immediate manager to inform them of this test result. As of right now, there is not a single employer who has a clear policy or multi-step procedure for what happens when an employee tests positive. Our Business Agents are continuing to work with all employers and management to create these policies. *Until these policies are enacted, we ask that any member willing to share their positive COVID-19 test result please contact their Business Agent immediately.*

Useful Links:

[SEIU 668 COVID-19 Website](http://www.seiu668.org/covid19/)

<http://www.seiu668.org/covid19/>

[Sign Up to Receive SEIU 668 Emails](http://bit.ly/contactinfo668)

<http://bit.ly/contactinfo668>

[Join our private Together We Rise! Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SEIU668TogetherWeRise/)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SEIU668TogetherWeRise/>

[PA Department of Health](https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

[PA Unemployment Compensation Claims Statistics](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/UC-Claim-Statistics.aspx)

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/UC-Claim-Statistics.aspx>