



**Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO Local 4900**

1130 East Epler Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
317-786-1441 / WATS 800-468-3873 / FAX 317-781-1161
www.cwa4900.org



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Local 4900 Members and Families,

As we enter this week, the COVID-19 situation around the world is dire and in our very country is growing by the hour. While the COVID-19 outbreak has seemingly appeared to affect very few here in Indiana, we simply don't know if that's from a lack of testing or the brunt of infections has not yet reached our area on a widespread basis.

Most of our membership is either on the older side of the population or many of our young members have children at home. This puts all of us squarely into the categories most impacted by this outbreak. The current situation calls for sanitary measures, social distancing and many other measures you have no doubt seen in the news or online. Please follow these measures as best as you can.

Our largest employers have started to offer as much as 80 hours off to take care of your children or yourself. This is commendable but also has resulted in many questions over the use of this time. We are working diligently to get answers to the many questions you have presented. I can only ask for your patience as we continue to seek and receive answers. Don't put in for this time unless you meet the established guidelines for its use. It could lead to discipline if you use this time in a manner not within those guidelines.

Your union, and its representatives across the state, continue to demand answers on the availability of sanitizing products in the workplace as well as for those working inside employer buildings and in customers' homes; while also demanding Personal Protective Equipment be made available immediately and prior to exposure to this virus. These demands are being made in every area across the state and multiple times per day. I can only tell you, if you don't feel safe, don't perform the job and tell your manager why. Be sure to let us know as well so we can document the incident and fight for you if needed.

This all could change in a moment's notice, so please understand as such. The last thing I will say is, take care of your families and one another. Take care of your neighbors and friends. If you have enough, share. If you can give blood, give. This road will only get tougher as this virus affects more in the world around us or even yourself. Don't let this divide us further, let it unite us in our resolve for one another and the good in this world.

We will keep fighting for the answers you seek while we all pray for this to pass quickly without harm to anyone.

In Solidarity,

Tim Strong, President
CWA Local 4900

