

From: Jason Franklin <Jason_Franklin@sd42.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 12:17 PM
Subject: COVID-19 Information For All CUPE Staff

Sisters, Brothers and Friends,

On this Friday before spring break Susanne Bonny and myself are reaching out to all CUPE 703 members to let you know that for the foreseeable future, we will be monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and will be in close contact with Superintendent, Sylvia Russell who is providing ongoing direction, answers to any questions we may have and updates on the current situation. **As this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation we are encouraging all members to check their school district email over spring break for possible updates.**

We want to remind all of our members of their right to refuse unsafe work under the WorkSafeBC act. Workers in B.C. have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard, such as exposure to COVID-19. In those circumstances, the worker must immediately inform their supervisor and employers need to consider the refusal on a case-by-case basis, depending on the situation. For more information, see Occupational Health and Safety Guideline G3.12. If you chose to invoke your right to refuse under the WorkSafeBC act you must tell your supervisor, email Amanda Reber, acting OHS Officer Amanda_reber@sd42.ca and please contact either myself, thepresident@cupe703.com, or Susanne Bonny fairydeity@hotmail.com

We strongly urge all members who feel they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace to complete an **Application for Compensation and Report of Injury or Occupational Disease, form 6, NOT a form 6A which is the form provided on MYSD42 under "my forms"**. The below link will take you to the page on the WorkSafeBC website where you can find the fillable/printable form 6. You should tell your supervisor that you have been exposed and give them a copy of the completed form 6. **It is important to know that the form 6 MUST go to WorkSafeBC, while the form 6A does not have to go to WorkSafeBC.**

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/claims/forms/application-for-compensation-and-report-of-injury-or-occupational-disease-form-6?lang=en>

SECTION 177 OF THE WORKS COMPENSATION ACT:

Employer or supervisor must not attempt to prevent reporting

An employer or supervisor must not, by agreement, threat, promise, inducement, persuasion or any other means, seek to discourage, impede or dissuade a worker of the employer, or a dependant of the worker, from reporting to the Board

The below link to the WorkSafeBC website addresses and provides information on COVID-19 and the workplace and your rights as a worker.

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/announcements/2020/March/covid-19-and-the-workplace>

For your information we have attached a message from CUPE National's President and Secretary Treasurer regarding COVID-19.

The following link will provide CUPE members with updates from CUPE National when they come available. <https://cupe.ca/search/COVID>

Additionally, we encourage members to visit the following link to the B.C. Ministry of Health's website for more information and updates on the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

NEED TO KNOW ITEMS

Risk: The risk of coronavirus disease transmission continues to remain low for residents of British Columbia. People without symptoms do not pose a risk.

Prevention: Proper hand washing, covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and staying home when you're sick is the best protection.

Symptoms: Reported signs and symptoms include: fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, and/or pneumonia in both lungs.

Experiencing symptoms: If you think you have the symptoms of coronavirus disease, please stay at home and call 8-1-1.

Returning from outside Canada: Anyone who travels outside of Canada will be asked to stay away from work or school for 14 days upon their return and monitor for symptoms and avoid contact with others. If you have been travelling and you become ill or become ill after you return home, tell your health care provider about recent travel and your symptoms. You should also tell your provider if you had close contact with a sick person.

Travelling outside of Canada: The Provincial Government is recommending against all non-essential travel outside of Canada, including to the United States. Effective today, anyone who chooses to travel outside of Canada will be asked to stay away from work or school for 14 days upon their return.

Health questions: If you have health concerns, call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1.

We wish everyone a safe and restful spring break. If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

In Solidarity,

Jason Franklin, President
CUPE Local 703

Susanne Bonny, Vice President
CUPE Local 703