



Important Update From Your Union

Greetings!

As we receive updates on COVID-19, we continue fighting to keep our members, families, and clients as safe as possible. Our stewards, officers, and union reps have been working hard fielding your calls, text messages and e-mails while at the same time working with agencies to answer your questions. While there are still many questions left to be answered, we want to share with you the latest updates.

Last week, we sent a letter to your agencies' CEO asking for their COVID-19 response plans.

We are asking for:

- Flexibility around both paid and unpaid sick leave, demanding that no worker lose pay or benefits due to COVID-19 Quarantine or closure.
- The state to continue payment to employers who have been forced to shut down or suspend services so that they have the funds available to pay employees affected
- Guidance to make sure elder service agencies (ASAPs) know how to properly handle this crisis. (The most recent State guidance can be found [here](#).)

In addition, we are working with our political allies on several relief measures for private sector workers. Along with Raise up Massachusetts and our elected representatives, we are working to expand the earned sick time law to immediately give people extra sick days on top of existing benefits. Finally, SEIU -- both at Local 509 and our International -- worked with our federal delegation in Congress to pass the *Families First CoronaVirus Response Act* to provide emergency relief to workers.

As we deal with the fallout of this crisis, SEIU Local 509 has reduced operations to essential functions and all contract bargaining and member meetings have been postponed until April 13 or later for the safety of members and staff. To be clear, we are fully staffed and fully operational, but are solely focusing on this crisis and helping our members cope with the disruptions.

This is a stressful time for everyone. Many of our clients are on edge, but please try to stay calm. The individuals in our care look to us for reassurance and comfort. Now more than ever it is important that we remain calm as we do our best to continue providing the best care to the most vulnerable in our society.

As we cope with these major disruptions it's important to remember that we are all united and now more than ever the strength of our community will be what carries us through.

Here are some important resources you may need during this crisis:

[Most recent guidance to agencies](#)
[State COVID 19 Update Page](#)
[Public Health Prevention guidelines](#)
[Department of Transitional Assistance](#)

We will share additional information as it becomes available. Please [visit this page on the Local 509 website](#) to see the latest updates.

If you have any questions or concerns about how you should proceed or your responsibilities during this time, please contact your union steward, a [union representative](#), or call the MARC at 1-800-632-8079.

Stay Safe,

Caroline Horton
Elder Service Chapter President
SEIU Local 509

LOCAL 509 COVID-19 RESPONSE

To get the latest updates for SEIU Local 509 members on the COVID-19 outbreak, [follow us on Facebook](#) and [check our COVID-19 Response page](#) on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns about changes at your worksite , contact your steward, [a union representative](#), or call the Member Action Resource Center at 1-800-632-8079.

SEIU Local 509

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