



## ***COVID-19 Update for DMH Members***

Greetings!

I hope this message finds you all well. I know this is a difficult time for everyone. Your DMH Chapter Board has been working hard to get your questions answered and to advocate for your needs and safety. We have been in frequent contact with each other and with Site Directors and Area Directors to express concerns, and the Chapter Board has been holding phone conference meetings.

**On 3/19/20 we had a phone conference with DMH Commissioner Mikula to express the multiple concerns that members have and the inconsistencies across the state with how DMH is conducting business at this time.** Our Western MA VP Cynthia Davis address the community concerns and our Inpatient VP Jeremy Weiland explained the concerns that those of us who work in hospitals are facing. They both did an excellent job of laying out our concerns. **Among these many concerns are:**

- Who is emergency staff and who does not need to be emergency
- Getting personal protective equipment and training on how to use PPI to Site Offices
- Getting offices cleaned and having cleaning products available such that the skeleton crews can be safe while they are working
- Lack of technology and equipment, to include cell phones and laptops
- How to reach out to the people we serve in the community and do it safely
- Increase in communication from DMH to employees around use of time, if there is an exposure, and if someone tested positive where that is.

Some of this communication has improved in the last couple of days, however it was far too slow in coming. The fact that we were not able to talk to the Commissioner until yesterday (3/19) has been frustrating to me although she did have a Deputy reach out to us. Our members deserve more respect than that for the difficult work they do. The use of time was also addressed along with people's concerns around child care issues, as of Monday day care centers will be closed. The state is looking into emergency child care options.

We will have our next phone call with the Commissioner on Monday afternoon (3/23). We will continue to share updates with you via email, your stewards, and [on this page on the Local 509 website](#).

**If you have a question or concern please reach out to your office steward, a member of the Chapter Board, your area VP or myself. You can also contact the Member Action Resource Center at 1-800-632-8079.**

Please stay safe and healthy!  
Thank you for all of your hard work.

In solidarity,

**Cassie Sampas**  
DMH Chapter President

## 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

Union Office: (774) 843-7509

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