



Important Update From Your Union

Greetings!

As we enter another week of the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope that you are all taking the time to care for yourselves. We want to share the latest updates with you.

DDS has enacted its COOP plan. It appears that DDS is anticipating a staffing shortage. In the plan they state they will use employees in the capacity that is needed. I have heard from the field that a few of our colleagues have been temporarily reassigned to residential homes. If this happens to you, please reach out to your Regional Vice President. They will help guide you through that transition.

We stated that our expectation is that these staff members that are being reassigned not enter the homes until there is an emergency situation. We have also been in conversation with management to address Residential Supervisors. Many Residential Supervisors have two homes and with management's expectations that they continue to go into homes the Department risks cross-contamination. We have shared our concerns and expectations. By limiting the staff and Residential Supervisors working remotely, this will limit the number of people going into the home that could potentially put our individuals and our colleagues at risk. We continue to work with management and Commissioner Ryder on pertinent issues as they arise.

There is guidance from EHS for Residential Homes and Congregate Living. Please click [here](#) to download the guide.

Your Regional Vice Presidents and Stewards (or contacts) have been busy organizing a phone tree for our members this week! I hope that we can reach more members quicker by personal calls or texts when we have updates.

Your leadership team would like to hold a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, March 31 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. More details to follow from your Stewards!

On that note, as we make shifts in the ways that we use technology during this time, we all find ourselves learning new skills and adapting. Here are some helpful tips:

- You can use *67 to block your personal telephone number if you are using it for work purposes.
- Google has a voice service -- Google Voice. They will assign you a number that you can link with your personal phone so that all of your business calls can go through this number. Families, individuals and providers will not have access to your personal number.
- Your office has access to a conference call line. Ask to use that if you need to host a conference call.
- Alternatively, there is a free conference call website - freeconferencecall.com - that will assign you a number and passcode.
- Zoom.us is a free video conference call system. You can also ask to get set up with a WebEx account and use that system.

I hope you find these tips helpful.

Thank you all for doing what you do!

In Solidarity,

Tina Simmerman, Chapter President

Deb Foster-Smith, NorthEast Regional Vice President

Ed Beecher, Metro Region Vice President

Kleinersen Devenicci, SouthEast Regional Vice President

Tiffany Goffer-Fitz, Central/West (Central) Regional Vice President

Cathy Beaver, Central/West (West) Regional Vice 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

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