



# Federation of Social Workers

## IUE-CWA 81381

# THE UNION REVIEW

Good morning Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the 9<sup>th</sup> week of dealing with this pandemic, I wanted to take the time to address some concerns that have been brought to my attention by members. The first being hazard pay. Many of you have reached out with concerns of how hazard pay was determined and how everyone working should receive hazard pay. I could not agree with you enough! Every day we are coming to work to provide Public Services to our community who is in need. Some of us continue to work while we try to balance our own challenges with the pandemic such as childcare, health concerns, safety concerns and fear of the unknown. FSW has been fighting nonstop to get **EVERYONE** included.

The second concern that has been brought to FSW is what is the protocol when a co-worker tests positive for COVID-19 compared to someone who may have been exposed? If an employee test positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate. The Health Department will conduct contact tracing and notify the individuals who may have been exposed. Those individuals must stay at home, practice social distancing, and monitor for symptoms. Individuals who are a contact of a contact, unless the individual has or develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, this individual is not at increased risk and no special precautions are necessary.

Another question that has been posed is what is the cleaning protocol for a work area once an employee test **positive** for COVID-19? Once County Administration is

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notified of a positive case, administration closes the floor in which the positive case worked, and an outside agency comes in to sanitize the entire floor. After the cleaning is completed, the floor could be opened immediately but the Leadership Team chooses to keep it closed for at least 24 hours to ensure that employees are safe.

As some of you may know June 6<sup>th</sup> the Executive Order that suspend face to face interviews will expire. The Leadership Team is working on a plan to safely bring employees back to work. Measures are being taken to make sure that employees are 6ft apart. Arrangements are being made to ensure that clients are not being interviewed in workers personal cubicle areas. There are plans to put up additional barriers to ensure that employees as well as the clients are safe. If you have any questions and or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your supervisor or myself.

In Solidarity,

Ebony Burgess

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