

May 13, 2020

**CUPE** / Canadian Union  
of Public Employees

# Local 1623 COVID-19 Update

## IN THIS UPDATE:

1

Day of Action  
Health & Safety  
Administration Update

2

WSIB  
Pandemic Pay

## Administration Update:

Please note that we will continue to follow the plan that was proposed in November 2019.

We will soon complete the Bylaw amendments and thereafter proceed to the election in order to vote in your Executive Officers.

More information will be sent to you shortly.

## Day of Action

As you know, **tomorrow we are asking all of our members to stay outside the facility at shift change for a few minutes to hold a protest over the issue of extending the pandemic pay subsidy of \$4.00** an hour to all employees in our bargaining units. We encourage members to write their job title on a piece of paper and to hold it. Please visit the local's webpage in order to get the Protect and Pay Equally poster.

[www.local1623.ca](http://www.local1623.ca)

Please respect social distancing.

Please send your photos to [admin@ochu.on.ca](mailto:admin@ochu.on.ca), tag us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#), or use the hashtags #SaveLivesN95s and #hcwCOVID2019 to share your photos.

## Health & Safety Surveys

The Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) have developed two surveys to measure the health impact the current COVID-19 crisis is having on workers.

**One survey is intended for health care workers while the other one is intended for all other workplaces.**

The surveys, in both English and French, were put together with input from several unions in Ontario, including CUPE. They are designed to learn about your experiences as a worker during a pandemic.

All the information collected in this survey is confidential. Only the researchers directly involved in this project will see all the answers. The team will not keep any information that could identify you or others. All the data collected is stored on a secure server.

The data collected will be used for research and to share with research organizations. The data, analysis and related information may be used in presentations, websites, and union, trade, and academic publications. We strongly urge you to take and share these surveys so that we can use the data to inform our ongoing support for members working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Survey for Health Care Workers

[ENGLISH](#)  
[FRENCH](#)

## Have you been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace?

Contact WSIB to make sure you get the compensation that you're entitled to.

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace:

- Visit [wsib.ca](http://wsib.ca) and fill out a Workers' Exposure Incident Form (form 3958A).

If you been diagnosed with COVID-19 after an exposure in the workplace:

- Visit [wsib.ca](http://wsib.ca) and fill out a Form 6
- Request that your doctor complete a Form 8 with the COVID-19 diagnosis and submit it to WSIB.

**Can't find the correct forms? Ask your Union Representative to help you file your claim with WSIB.**

## WSIB Benefits and COVID-19

COVID-19 falls within the definition of an occupational disease. Therefore, where a worker contracts COVID-19 at work and is sick, they should be entitled to WSIB compensation.

### Criteria for WSIB benefits

- You must be diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Exposure leading up to diagnosis must have occurred at workplace or was a significant contributing factor to the risk of contracting the illness, beyond that faced in the community at large.

### Why apply for WSIB benefits?

- You are entitled to them
- WSIB benefits may be greater than EI or the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit
- WSIB benefits can be combined with other benefits provided by your Collective Agreement
- WSIB benefits do not have a set expiry date, you can receive them as long as you are unable to work due to an illness contracted on the job.

### Further notes on reporting a COVID-19 diagnosis to WSIB

A WSIB claim should be filed as soon as possible and no later than 6 months from the date you discover you have the disease. The longer one takes to file a claim, the harder it will be to show a connection between the work and the illness.

## Pandemic Pay

On Saturday, April 25th the Ontario Government announced its intention to issue Pandemic Pay in the period from April 24th to August 12th for some workers in some workplaces.

Literally from the time of the announcement there have been many questions about Pandemic Pay.

**CUPE Ontario has prepared a brief Q&A, available by clicking [here](#), that addresses these issues based on what we know as of May 7, 2020.**

CUPE Ontario continues to lobby the government with formal, detailed proposals to expand the list of eligible workplaces and eligible workers, to widen the applicability of pandemic pay to pensions, overtime and sick time and, most important, to make pandemic pay permanent and ongoing.

We will do our best to keep CUPE Locals and members updated about these important issues.

In the meantime, we have an e-action so that members can be part of that important lobby to apply pressure to government, available by clicking [here](#).

MC/ct cope491