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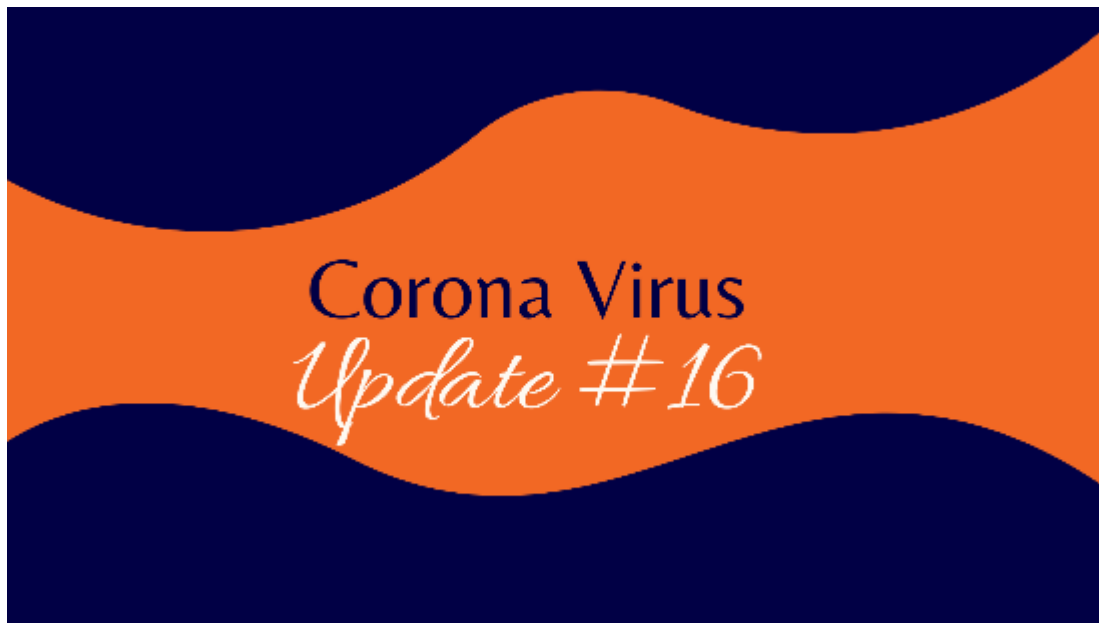
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Weekly Newsletter

NEWS & EVENTS | Tuesday, April 7, 2020 |



**LAST CHANCE to fill out the Bargaining Survey.
The survey closes at midnight tonight.**

Dear Staff-appointed Members,

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a lot of concerns about our health, our families, our work and the long-term implications of the provincial lock-down. All of our union communications, and most of our member support work, has been related to COVID-19 for the past two weeks. However, we do need to keep our other essential work moving along. This includes working on the negotiations for our next collective agreement.

We are still in a bargaining year, and we are trying to adhere to our bargaining timelines, so we will be ready to represent our members well at the bargaining table (even if it's a virtual one) later this spring.

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to fill out our bargaining survey. This is the main tool that we use to determine our members' priorities. The bargaining committee will be reporting back on what we've learned from the survey through virtual town halls, probably towards the end of April.

There are a lot of unknowns right now and our situation at work and in the community seems to be changing daily. We thank you for taking a bit of time to read this email and complete the survey.

Information that you provide is anonymous. If you have any questions please contact us at info@usw1998.ca or call 416.506.9090. We have extended the closing of the survey to to **Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 11:59 pm**. At the end of the survey, you can submit your email address to be eligible to enter into a draw for a Fitbit.

Sincerely,

USW Local 1998 Staff-appointed Bargaining Committee

Bargaining Survey

Exposed to a hazardous substance?

When a worker believes that they might have come into accidental contact with a harmful substance on the job, there is a Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) Form (3958A) that they can fill out and submit to WSIB before there is evidence that they were exposed to the substance. The submission of Form

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If you are currently going to work on campus, the Union recommends that you fill out and submit to WSIB their Form 3958A. Doing so could be helpful if you become infected with COVID-19 and you have to make a related claim for WSIB benefits. Submitting a Form 3958A does not affect the University standing or rating with the WSIB.

If you have questions about the form, please contact [Mark Austin](#) or 416-506-9090 x 238

Worker's Exposure Incidence Form

Non-medical face coverings are now recommended

Public Health Canada and The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are recommending non-medical face coverings while out in public.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta is now recommending new guidelines for the use of wearing “non-medical cloth” face coverings. This is a reversal of previous guidance that suggested masks were unnecessary for people who weren’t sick.

The CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from [recent studies](#) that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“**asymptomatic**”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“**pre-symptomatic**”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

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[Public Health Canada.](#)



Occupational
Health Clinics
for Ontario
Workers Inc.

Centres de
santé des
travailleurs (ses)
de l'Ontario Inc.

Safely Tips When Working From Home

Given the new normal of businesses and government striving to maintain services while reinforcing critical physical distancing, more and more Ontarians are working from home. OHCOW ergonomists past and present offer a few tips in the attached documents on taking the time to set up a proper workstation to improve health, safety, and even productivity, which is better for all. Plus our [Ergonomics](#) resource page and [Ergotools](#) provide an abundance of information and guidance, including videos, on fitting your workstation to you, instead of contorting yourself to fit it, or alternatively, roaming around with a laptop. And if none of that helps, don't hesitate to [contact](#) the Clinic nearest you to get a telephone or virtual consultation. We're here to help, free of charge. (And don't forget about [Electrical Safety](#) either).

[Setting up Your Home Workstation](#)
[Home and Virtual Office Ergonomics](#)

Zoom Connection Details TODAY & UPCOMING MEETINGS

With the constantly changing situation, we have been focusing on e-newsletters to keep members up to date on what's happening. The COVID-19 Information Meetings will give members an opportunity to ask questions and have a conversation with union representatives on the situation. We will first answer the most frequently-asked questions sent in advance by members and then will take questions from members in attendance.

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Tues. April 7, 2020 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/552796628>

Dial in:

+1 647 374 4685

+1 647 558 0588

+1 778 907 2071

+1 438 809 7799

+1 587 328 1099

Meeting ID: 552 796 628

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,552796628#

+16475580588,,552796628#

Wed. April 8, 2020 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/880695509>

Dial in:

+1 587 328 1099

+1 647 374 4685

+1 647 558 0588

+1 778 907 2071

+1 438 809 7799

Meeting ID: 880 695 509

One tap mobile:

+15873281099,,880695509#

+16473744685,,880695509#

Thurs. April 9, 2020 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/146951092>

Dial in:

+1 647 558 0588

+1 778 907 2071

+1 438 809 7799

+1 587 328 1099

+1 647 374 4685

Meeting ID: 146 951 092

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Questions can be sent in ahead of time to the following links:

For April 7th send questions [HERE](#).

For April 8th send questions [HERE](#).

For April 9th send questions [HERE](#).

Members can send in their questions ahead of time and we will answer questions anonymously.



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