

Dear Victoria University USW Members,

When a worker believes that they might have come into accidental contact with a harmful substance on the job, there is a 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 3958A could be helpful later if a worker needs to make a claim for WSIB benefits because of an earlier exposure. 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. Below is a link to the form. If you have questions about the form, please contact Mark Austin.

[https://www.wsib.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2018-12/3958a\\_07\\_16\\_fs.pdf](https://www.wsib.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2018-12/3958a_07_16_fs.pdf)

As the pandemic develops, new information about how COVID-19 spreads is being learned. Recently it has become clear that not everyone who has the disease shows symptoms and that both pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers can transmit the disease to others. It is also now known that the mist expelled from by a carrier when they are speaking or just breathing regularly can transmit the disease to people who come closer than two metres of them. This emphasizes the importance of social distancing and the wearing of a commercially bought or homemade cloth face covering when in public. It also emphasizes the need to stay home from work if are feeling sick. This is not a time to be stoic by coming to work sick.

The Union asked the University to consider distributing commercially made cloth face coverings to staff working on campus. The University agreed to work with the U of T to purchase non-medical cloth face coverings, although it seems that, like medical grade face masks, they are currently in short supply. In the meantime, Human Resources has told the Union that any employee working on campus should feel free to wear their own commercially bought or handmade face covering while they are at work.