



March 19, 2020

RE: Covid-19 Update

To UA 324 Members,

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to spark fear in our members currently working on our construction sites. I have added some FAQ's below to help alleviate some concerns and questions you may have pertaining to your health and well-being.

Question #1- Is there any known cases of Covid-19 on any construction site on Vancouver Island? No, not to our knowledge.

Jim Noon

Question #2- If there are more than 50 people at a worksite, does this qualify as a gathering that should be closed down? Not at this time. The BC Government has placed a ban on all events larger than 50 people. This does not include work sites or large places of employment.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Question #3- If my jobsite shuts down because of the Covid-19 pandemic, will I be re-hired once the jobsite opens again? The union will allow employers to recall members back to their previous jobsites due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Question #4- In the event I receive a lay-off due to the Covid-19 pandemic, do I need to sign the unemployed register at the union hall? No, unless you are not planning to return back to work with your previous employer. Members requesting to put their name on the unemployed register can email stefan@ualocal324.com.

Question #5- What is the unions position on how Covid-19 is affecting the members? The union is posting current information on our 324 facebook page and on our website. Members are encouraged to check the sites daily.

Question #6- What preventative measures can I do on the job to prevent contracting this virus? The Center for Disease Control recommends washing hands

UNITED ASSOCIATION
OF JOURNEYMEN
AND
APPRENTICES
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PLUMBING AND
PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY
OF
THE UNITED STATES
AND CANADA

919 Esquimalt Road, Victoria, B.C. V9A 3M7
Toll Free: 1.888.382.0415

Tel: 250.382.0415 Fax: 250.380.1713
Email: admin@ualocal324.com





Jim Noon

BUSINESS MANAGER

FINANCIAL SECRETARY



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frequently with soap and water, wear gloves, clean tools and equipment on a regular basis, practice social distancing of 2 meters.

Question #7- What if I feel sick? If your feeling ill, immediately contact your employer via phone or email. Do not come into work.

Question #8- My jobsite doesn't have a wash station and I'm concerned about being able to properly wash my hands as recommended by the CDC? Under Worksafe BC regulations which was Issued January 1, 2005 Section 4.85(2) of the OHS Regulation ("Regulation")states:

(2) If plumbed washroom facilities cannot be provided because of the nature of the workplace or the nature of the work in which the worker is involved, the employer, must

(a) provide access to portable washroom and hand-washing facilities.

This is a requirement and if not provided and accessible should be reported to Worksafe BC.

Question #9- Is there any financial help if I'm laid off and awaiting my EI benefits due to a back log at Service Canada? The union is unable to provide any financial assistance. However, Community Savings is offering a special line of credit for union workers facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This means that those facing job losses can have access to an interest free \$2,500 line of credit. Members can call Community Savings in Victoria, 250-385-8431.

Question #10- Where would I find the latest information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic? It's is important to ensure you are getting the most accurate and reliable information about Covid-19. These are trustworthy sources.

- Health Canada, www.canada.ca
- BC Centre for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov
- World Health Organization, www.who.int

Fraternally Your,

Jim Noon

UA 324 Business Manager/Finical Secretary

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