



# *AFSCME* DISTRICT COUNCIL 33

## MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNION

AFFILIATED WITH  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES – AFL-CIO  
PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO  
PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL AFL-CIO

*"Philadelphia Works Because We Do"*

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## Message from President Pete Matthews Coronavirus Update

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am sure that you, like everybody else in the country, are watching the developments around the worldwide COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic with the same attention and concern that I am.

For District Council 33 members and their families this is an uncertain and dangerous time and I understand the need to protect your family and those close to you.

I want to let you know that District Council 33 is taking aggressive actions to protect the health and safety of our members so that each of you can continue to deliver the essential services needed by the citizens of Philadelphia.

Here are some of the first actions we have taken:

1. I have come to an agreement with the City that those District Council 33 members who are designated as essential employees by the City – including interest arbitration eligible employees -- and who are required to come to work will be paid time and a half for all hours worked during their regularly scheduled shifts. ***(click here to see the full description of the agreement)***
2. I have decided to close the union's office at 30<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets until further notice for safety reasons, so no union meetings will be permitted until the situation improves.
3. The Health and Welfare Fund business office will also be closed; however, the JFK Medical Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will remain open to deliver high quality health services for our members. ***(click here to read the latest update from Medical Director Dr. Vaughn Graves)***

4. To receive text messages on your cell phone with breaking news about the City's actions related to the COVID-19 outbreak, I recommend texting COVIDPHL to 888777. This text message service can help keep you informed with up to date news on COVID-19.

With the public health emergency created by the spread of the coronavirus, schools and universities shut down, businesses closed, and large events and gatherings canceled, the City must still continue to function.

District Council 33 members play an important role in the fight against the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

District Council 33 members who provide essential services for Health Care to the most vulnerable (Local 488 Health Department), keep our water and sewer systems in operation (Local 394 Water Department), collect the City's trash and keep our streets clean (Local 427 Sanitation Department), traffic control (Local 403 Department of Streets), Correctional Officers and Child Protection Services (Local 159 Department of Human Services) , Airport workers (Local 1510 Department of Commerce), Revenue Collections (Department Of Finance) , Vehicle Equipment Maintenance (Local 1927 Fleet management), and members staffing the Parking Authority, Public Property and the public safety functions of the Police and Fire departments and District Attorney's Office (Local 1637), Parks and Recreation Department (Local 222 ), Department of Housing (Local 934), are on the front lines of fighting the pandemic.

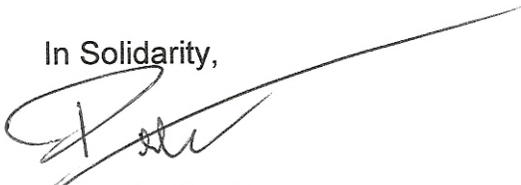
I am proud to say that all of our District Council 33 members (including Local 1956 Crossing Guards and Local 1971 Redevelopment Authority), as they always have when our city and nation have faced challenges, danger and uncertainty, have stepped up to keep our fellow Philadelphia citizens safe and our City operating effectively.

With every effort you make to face down this latest global health challenge by continuing to provide the essential services that the City needs in order to function, District Council 33 members are giving new life to our slogan "Philadelphia Works Because We Do!"

I applaud you as you continue to perform the heroic mission that you are asked to do. Please know that your union, District Council 33, will continue to have your back and make sure that your financial and personal health, and the health and safety of your family, will remain our primary focus as we work together to defeat the threats of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

We are all in this together!

In Solidarity,



Pete Matthews  
President

## **Here is the agreement with the City:**

### **Regulation 31 – Interim Regulations**

Regulation 31.24 to be established as follows:

**31.24 COMPENSATION FOR ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES** during the public health emergency related to the CoronaVirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Due to City closure of administrative offices and declaration that non-essential employees are not required to report for duty for the health and safety of all City residents, Civil Service employees designated essential shall earn additional cash compensation only as follows:

**A. District Council 33 employees, including employees represented by Local 159B, shall earn compensation at one-and-a-half times their ordinary hourly rate for all hours worked during their regularly-scheduled shift. All other hours worked will be paid in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement and existing Civil Service Regulations.**

“ Hours worked” shall not include time spent by employees waiting to be notified that they will be needed to perform essential work or time spent traveling to or from worksites for the purpose of calculating additional cash compensation due under this Regulation

This Regulation shall be effective from March 18, 2020, through March 29, 2020



# MEDICAL CENTER

**Important Update about the COVID-19 coronavirus  
From JFK Medical Center Medical Director  
Dr. Vaughn Graves**

Why was the government so late to respond to the COVID-19 virus? I believe it was for many reasons. One is that the government is fractured into 50 pieces/states with leaders taking steps individually. This could be a contributing factor in why this global pandemic known as the COVID-19 coronavirus is spreading rapidly and is putting a great deal of pressure on all facilities providing vital health care services.

Here at JFK Medical Center, we have been doing our best to meet the needs of District Council 33 members, your families and our staff by keeping the clinic open, along with the pharmacy, specialist visits and primary care appointments in addition to the walk-in clinic.

We are following the guidance and recommendations of the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and other credible sources, in an effort to keep our patients and workers safe.

As part of our effort, we are pre-screening everyone upon their arrival, have established an isolated area for patients who have a fever, are short of breath or have other flu like symptoms, are providing masks to patients as needed, providing hand sanitizer and Kleenex to encourage the necessary hand hygiene, and intensified the environmental services cleaning efforts.

In spite of the dedicated work being performed by our medical and support staff, we are coming close to exhausting our resources.

As this pandemic increases nationally in patients, the demand on supplies that we need to safely care for our patients (especially protective masks and gloves) is fast approaching a critical level.

At some point in the not too distant future, we may need to make the hard decision to take more serious steps in order to make sure that we can provide vital medical services in the future.

### **The situation as it stands right now**

It has become necessary to modify our hours of operation at JFK Medical Center to 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday and 9 AM – 1 PM on Saturdays.

This is a recommendation from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for primary care physician offices. It will allow us to continue to:

- Keep our doors open to provide care and services
- Decrease exposure to members and staff
- Continue the sanitization of the facility
- Manage supplies during this nationwide shortage

We have suspended the services of our specialists at this time to decrease the number of patients gathering in our waiting areas. That is because the CDC recommends no more than 10 people in one area.

In addition, many of our members who come in to see our specialists have health problems which may further compromise their health.

We have suspended their schedules for two weeks. We are working with the specialists on an ongoing basis to accommodate emergent situations.

If you had an appointment between March 19 – April 10, 2020, and you feel you cannot wait please call 215-386-3556 and the staff will do their best to accommodate you.

### **What we could be facing soon**

It is hard to have to even consider closing the clinic knowing that so many District Council 33 members and your families depend on the services of JFK Medical Center.

However, it may become necessary to temporarily close and suspend hours of the clinic due to this Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Pandemic. Please keep checking the JFK Medical Center website at <http://www.jfkmedical.net> and on the DC 33 website at <http://www.afscme33.org> for more information.

If the JFK Medical Center closes, please be assured that I will continue to assess and intend to reopen the clinic as soon as it can be done safely. The JFK Medical Center clinic will only close based on the following conditions:

- One or more of our staff test positive for COVID-19
- A Government-ordered shut down
- Depletion of these vital supplies
  - Facial mask
  - Gowns
  - Gloves
  - Hand sanitizer

If we close the clinic you may want to go to an Urgent Care facility or if you believe you are having a medical emergency call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room. In the interim remember to follow the CDC recommendations:

- Cover your cough and sneeze
- Social distancing (6 feet)
- Avoid large gatherings (No more than 5 – 10 people)
- Keep your hands from touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth)
- Dispose of soiled tissues in the trash immediately after use

### **The Matter of Coronavirus Test Kits**

Unfortunately, we have requested test kits and have not received any at this time.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health and neighboring hospitals (Jefferson and University of Pennsylvania) are working on setting up sites.

A referral (an order, script or lab requisition) from your physician will be necessary but it is no guarantee that you will be tested.

Each site will have their own criteria for testing. Most sites are looking for you to have one or two symptom (sore throat, fever, cough or acute respiratory illness), international travel within 14 days, be a patient who is a healthcare worker, be a patient requiring hospitalization for symptoms, or be a patient with progressive acute respiratory illness with no apparent cause or confirmed exposure to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

If a patient does not present any symptoms, no testing is recommended.

**The COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic is continuing to grow but we here at the JFK Medical Center remain committed to working as hard as we can, for as long as we can, to continue to serve District Council 33 members and your families.**