



"Freedom Through Organization"

LOCAL 85

# AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

2022 CHATEAU STREET      PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

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January 28, 2021

## COVID - 19 Vaccination update

- In Pennsylvania, transit workers fall into **Group 1B** but currently the vaccination is limited to operators only. Our ATU International leadership is lobbying for ALL transit workers to be included in **Group 1B**
- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is allocating the vaccinations. They are distributing them and currently they're still working within **Group 1A**
- We have proposed that all Local 85 members receive paid time off to receive the vaccination as well as paid time for side effects which may occur. Port Authority is currently in the process of drafting an agreement which would provide days off with pay.
- We proposed to have vendors on the property at all locations to administer the vaccines and to have all members compensated for receiving the vaccine
- We encourage everyone to receive a vaccination but we cannot mandate it. It is your choice.
- Mask mandate – we must protect each other, please wear your masks
- If you would like an N- 95 mask just ask your dispatcher or your immediate supervisor.
- If a person has medical issues we can't challenge it under the ADA laws
  - Call traffic
  - Port Authority Police or Route Forman will not drag them off
  - They will offer them a mask & try to defuse the situation
  - The only thing that can be done at this point is to wait them out
- Port Authority will be distributing packages of 50 wipes to assist in sanitizing your work areas. Please don't take them home, use them at work. The more we can work together & keep areas clean the safer we'll be. All we're trying to do is protect our members
- The new strain of Covid is being labeled as more contagious and worse.

**PLEASE** continue to wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart and wash your hands frequently, especially while in the break rooms/crews' rooms

- Port Authority plans to distribute a Q&A packet with regards to COVID-19 excused days w/pay. We are currently drafting a more simplified flow chart of the same which will also be distributed.

## OTHER UPDATES

In addition to these COVID-19 challenges, we'd like to bring you up to speed on your pay increase and retro pay. All members should see the new pay increase reflected in your pay the last week of February.

As for the retro pay, the benefits department continues to work on the calculations for each employee. There are dozens of classifications, hrs of overtime calculations and pay progression calculations which make this process extremely time consuming. Rest assured, all will be made whole and **ALL retro pay will be distributed in a separate check.**

- The message on HASTUS at East liberty with regards to receiving retro pay on February 10<sup>th</sup> was misleading! It only pertains to a few members in progression.
- Contract books are in the drafting process followed by proof reading & eventually going to print.
- **Wellness** – please be sure to complete your health assessment, yearly exam and biometric screening as soon as possible. You still have plenty of time but we'd advise all to get it done now. The deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- BBS Benefit Solutions will be back at the union office beginning week of February 8<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, we encourage our members to reach out to BBS and explore the benefits which includes short term disability, sick & accident and life insurance programs. For a limited time, you will be automatically covered as long as you're currently working. In the interim, please feel free to contact 1-866-902-2561.
- And finally, we are pleased to announce that the Executive Board has voted to move forward with conducting our monthly membership meetings beginning February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meetings will be held at the union hall. 10:30am and 8:00pm as usual.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED – ALL ATTENDEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK AND HAVE TEMPERATURE SCREENING UPON ENTRANCE TO THE HALL. IF YOU'VE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ANYONE WHO HAS HAD A POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID, OR IF YOU'VE HAD A POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID OR IF YOU ARE HAVING COVID SYMPTOMS, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETINGS.**

For questions and further information, please feel free to contact the union hall.

*In Solidarity,*

**Jeffrey Di Perna – Assistant Business Agent Maintenance**  
**Ted Kielur – Assistant Business Agent Operators**