

# COVID-19: Member FAQs

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## **Should I Stay Home from Work?**

Our members take pride in their training, professionalism and sense of duty. Governor Pritzker has identified construction as “essential” because many are building hospitals and other healthcare facilities to help treat patients infected with COVID-19. It’s important to maintain contact with your employers to understand when you are scheduled for work and make every effort to report if you are symptom-free and feel comfortable doing so. All employees on the jobsite should follow the advice of experts in practicing social distancing, proper hygiene, and other protective measures suggested [here](#).

Those members who show any symptoms should report that to their supervisors and should refer to the [CDC guidelines](#).

## **Do I have to be symptom-free to go to work?**

During this state of emergency, employers are legally allowed to require employees to be symptom-free in order to be on the jobsite.

## **If I worked around someone, and had no contact, but later they tested positive, will I get the virus?**

Not necessarily, but you should monitor yourself for 14 days and if you become symptomatic, then call a medical professional to determine how to proceed. The project should follow the procedure from the CDC. Hygiene and washing hands are so critical to stopping the spread.

## **If I have a concern that my job site has been exposed to COVID-19, should I continue working?**

No, you should immediately leave the jobsite and contact your Local Business Representative or the Regional Council’s Safety Department at 312-787-3076.

## **If I have a concern that a project may not be following the CDC guidelines, who should I contact?**

Contact your steward, local union or the Regional Council at 312-787-3076. Please provide specific information. All the guidelines for the workplace can be found [here](#).

## **If I refuse to work because of the virus, can my employer fire me?**

No, your employer cannot fire you. Employees are not required to go to work under conditions which may expose them to a safety hazard.

### **Can I file for unemployment if I'm not working?**

Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributable to COVID-19. The Illinois Department of Employment Security recently adopted emergency rules to try to make the unemployment insurance system as responsive to the current situation as possible. For more information, including how to file a claim, visit the IDES website [here](#). Please note: employees who voluntarily quit their positions generally are not entitled to compensation. However, when circumstances exist that would compel an employee to quit, the employee may be eligible for compensation.

### **Does the Family Medical Leave Act apply if my minor child's school is closed due to the virus?**

Yes, the FMLA was recently amended to include circumstances where an employee is unable to work due to the need to care for a minor son or daughter whose school or place of care has been closed.

### **Q: Is mill-cabinet industrial work considered construction work under the Governor's Order?**

Yes, like construction work, mill industrial work is considered an Essential Function and should continue.

### **Are Training Centers and Apprenticeship Classes Open?**

All training centers are closed for the time being. For up-to-date information on training centers, please visit the CRCC Apprentice and Training Program website: <https://www.chicap.org/>

### **Are Local Offices Open?**

Yes, but for the safety of our members and staff, and to limit in-person contact, we ask that whenever possible you pay your dues via mail, or over the phone. Local union [offices](#) will remain open during their normal business hours, but please call ahead prior to making an in-person visit.

### **Is the Regional Council Office Open?**

Our staff is focused on serving our members. The Regional Council's office will also remain open during our normal business hours. Your representatives will continue to be a resource to members and active in their duties on jobsites.