

COVID-19 UPDATES: PROTOCOLS, POSTPONEMENTS, AND THANKS

The impact of COVID-19 continues to unfold.

Here are some developments and situations MCO leaders have monitored over the past week. There are still some significant issues that we are addressing with the Office of the State Employer, the Governor's office and the Department, all of which could take time to get answers.

- Compensation for time spent in screening protocols and late reliefs: We are addressing the required additional time spent during the screening process and late reliefs caused by the screening process. We advise members to document these instances in assignment log books and notify the local chapter representatives.
- Two MDOC staff have tested positive for the virus. One is an employee at the Detroit Detention Center and one is a Jackson County probation agent. We have been told that the Department is contacting staff who have been in contact with them.

- MDOC has posted a list of COVID-19 [FAQs here](#).
- MDOC has temporarily postponed the April 2020 recruit academy.
- The downstate graduation for the Sally Langley class was scheduled for today, but it has been postponed. Recruits will still report to their assigned facilities on Monday, March 23.
- Gov. Whitmer has signed an order aimed at expanding day care for essential staff, including COs. [Read more and find care here](#).

Corrections officers are first responders inside prisons. Just like nurses and police, COs are still working 24/7, keeping staff, inmates, and the public safe. They deserve our respect and gratitude for their dedication during this crisis.

Thank you to all chapter leaders and other members who have shared information on how the virus is being handled at your facilities.

Watch our members-only [Facebook group](#) for the latest info.

AROUND THE STATE: SRF AGREES TO 12s; PROTEST AT JCS

Saginaw members have voted in favor of 12-hour shifts, 94 to 78, with 6 ballots unreturned. The ballots were counted March 19.

Implementation of 12-hour shifts is on hold for now due to the COVID-19 crisis.

About 40 Cooper Street prisoners violated a flu quarantine and left their unit March 15.

The inmates went to the weight pit. They returned to their units when told to do so. Four prisoners were transferred and were placed in segregation.

APPLY FOR THE MCO SCHOLARSHIP NOW THROUGH JUNE 1

Again this year, MCO will award 20 college scholarships of \$750 each to children of members who will be enrolled in college classes this fall. Previous scholarship winners are not eligible.

Mailed applications must be postmarked by June 1. Print an application from the MCO [web-site](#). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The MCO scholarship program is a long-standing benefit of membership beyond anything in the contract. It shows that unions support families and can have a meaningful impact on the things that matter most.

MCO will also bring back the college debt relief and academy reimbursement programs introduced last year.

Info on how to apply will be announced soon.



STATE SURVEY REMINDER

Don't forget to take the 2020 Employee Survey before it closes Monday, March 23.

The first invite was emailed to your work email March 2. A reminder email was scheduled to be sent today.

Survey responses are confidential.

This is your chance to make your voice heard – don't let it go to waste. In the past, MCO leaders have been able to point to survey results when we argue the need for steps to improve morale, increase communication at the facility level, and hire more front-line staff.

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