

TELL GOV. WHITMER: WE'VE SACRIFICED ENOUGH – WE NEED OUR LEAVE TIME

This week, MCO launched a campaign asking Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to restore sick and annual leave to members who were forced to use this time for COVID-related absences.

Members, please take one minute to [email Gov. Whitmer now](#). If you're not a member but would like to support COs and FSAs by emailing the governor, [please use this form to send an email](#).

More than 950 emails have been sent to the governor since Tuesday. **We'd like to send 2,000 emails as soon as possible.** We know this is an ambitious goal, but here's why it's so important.

We must show Gov. Whitmer that there is wide agreement among COs, FSAs, ARU investigators, and all MCO members and their families on this point: **we earned our leave time and it's wrong to take it from us due to exposure to the virus at work.**

MCO leaders have been pushing this message for months. When 2,000 people reinforce the message, it proves our solidarity and determination to fight for what's right. Please take one minute to send an email now.

MCO leaders and staff are planning more actions to spread awareness of working conditions and advocate for fairness during the pandemic. We'll keep you updated.

CONVALESCENT PLASMA QUESTIONS ANSWERED

As of Jan. 28, there have been [3,441 COVID-19 cases](#) among MDOC staff. Many officers have inquired about how they can donate convalescent plasma in hopes of helping those with severe cases.

[Versiti.org](#) has a full list of where you can donate convalescent plasma in Michigan. You may also ask your local blood center if there are options to donate convalescent plasma in your area.

Those who are interested in donating can visit [Versiti.org](#) for more information or sign up with [American Red Cross](#). Those with questions may contact Michigan Versiti Blood Center of Michigan at (866) 642-5663 or the [Red Cross](#).

Convalescent plasma has antibodies that can help COVID-19 patients by giving their immune system a boost. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or suspect that you have had the virus, you may be eligible to donate.

- Report by *Mikaela Bliven*
This story was edited for space. Read full details on our website.

Gun Tower Coffee supports Michigan COs

Have you tried Gun Tower Coffee? A retired Michigan corrections officer started this new coffee company with COs in mind. Plus, 10% of net profits go to groups that support COs, like the MCO Crisis Fund!

The retiree got the idea from his son, who is a firefighter. Firefighters drink a special brand of coffee that donates some profits to firefighters' crisis funds.

"My son said, 'Dad, why don't you do a coffee company for corrections officers?'"

Gun Tower Coffee offers a medium and dark roast in 1 lb. bags and 12-cup packets. Because manifesting can be an issue when bringing in coffee, the packaging is clear plastic.

When you buy Gun Tower Coffee, 10% of profits will be donated. Go to <https://guntowercoffee.com/>, and at checkout, select the option to give to the MCO Crisis Fund. You can also buy Gun Tower Coffee at More Purks in Ionia. Keep your eyes peeled – it may be available soon in other stores near Michigan prisons.



Confidential emotional support counseling is now available at no cost to people who call the state's COVID-19 hotline (1-888-535-6136).

The service is part of a [grant program](#) implemented by the MDHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) in partnership with the Michigan State Police.

Full details are on the [MCO website](#) and [Michigan.gov/StayWell](#).