



## COVID-19 UPDATES: LOU GIVES MEMBERS 8 HRS S/L

MCO has signed a Letter of Understanding with the state that will grant all MCO bargaining unit members 8 hours of sick leave as an incentive to use it to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine. Members are not required to get the vaccine; this is just an effort by the state to encourage people to get it. There is no expiration or revocation of the leave even if you choose not to get vaccinated.

[Read the LOU here.](#)

The MCO statewide grievance on the forced use of sick and annual leave and any related lost time for precautionary quarantines has now moved to the arbitration phase. The arbitrator heard arguments from MCO and the Department

and now both sides are preparing final written briefs to submit to the arbitrator, who will then make a ruling.

This grievance is one of two avenues that we are using to try to get this leave back for members. The other is our ongoing push to get the legislature and governor's office to approve use of federal funding to supplement the state budget and restore the time. We have secured proposed intent language for this supplement and are hopeful that the funding is approved. We'll keep you updated.

We've been working on both avenues for many months now. Both the grievance and legislative processes work slowly, but MCO leaders want members to know we are still fighting.

## MI STAY WELL OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Reminder: Confidential emotional support counseling is available at no cost at the state's COVID-19 hotline (1-888-535-6136).

The service is part of [Stay Well](#), a federally-funded program implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) in partnership with the Michigan State Police.

Stay Well is also offering "Uplifting our First Responders and Frontline Workers," a free, one-hour webinar designed for those working on the frontlines of COVID-19. The next webinar will be held on May 27, with additional webinars every Thursday in June. [Register here.](#)

You can also reach the MDOC Wellness Unit at 833-322-9355 or email [mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov).

## BARAGA OFFICERS RESPOND TO PRISONER STABBING

A Baraga inmate used a piece of sharpened metal from a typewriter to stab another prisoner May 8.

Officers responded quickly to the assault, which happened in the Unit 7 (Level V) shower area. The prisoner

had been stabbed several times.

The assaulted prisoner was treated at the facility. The attacker went to segregation.

No staff injuries were reported.

## STAND WITH MCO: REAUTHORIZE YOUR DUES TODAY



Members, you can reauthorize your membership dues now for the '21-'22 fiscal year.

Log in to the HR Self-Service Online Portal from a [desktop computer](#) or from a [mobile device](#) to get started. Full instructions are in [this flyer](#) and [video](#).

Or, you can call the HR Service Center at 877-766-6447 and ask to reauthorize. Their hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you joined or rejoined MCO on Oct. 1, 2020 or later, you do not need to reauthorize dues at this time as your current activation of dues counts for the next fiscal year.

Remember, the Michigan Civil Service Commission ruled in July 2020 that all state employee union members must reauthorize their union dues deduction every year, or the deduction will automatically end. This was done in yet another attempt to defund state employee unions including MCO and silence your voice.

You can read more about the Commission's decision and other important info on reauthorization at [mco-seiu.org/reauthorize](http://mco-seiu.org/reauthorize).

Thanks for standing in solidarity with your fellow officers and FSAs in MCO.