

COVID-19 Reminders for Members

Below is a brief list of reminders for members in response to common concerns we have heard from you this past week. **This list is not exhaustive.** If you have a question or concern relating to the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please bring them with you to our Virtual Chapter Meeting on 3/25.

With the schools closed, what happens if I am unable to arrange childcare?

If you are unable to come in because of the school closing, you should call your supervisor and let them know. No one will be disciplined for needing to stay home with their child because of the school closing.

Who is considered essential personnel?

This may vary by Department and the needs of clinical operations, but currently clinical staff who work with patients and some animal care staff are considered essential.

For more information on essential personnel, you can view Governor Cuomo's full executive order <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>.

If I am in a work rotation, can I still use my personal time (i.e. personal/vacation days)?

As always, vacation requests must be approved by your supervisor. Whether or not your Department has suspended vacation requests will vary. However, if you are in a work rotation and you are unable to come in on your scheduled day, use of personal and sick days still applies, even for essential employees.

Will I still be paid if I am told to stay home and I am unable to work from home?

If you have been asked to stay home and but you were not assigned remote work; you will continue to be paid your full salary. This also applies if you are forced to quarantine, in which case you will be paid regardless of your accrued sick days. However, if you are quarantined and able to work from home, you will be expected to work during your quarantine.

Lastly, the union's position is no one should be forced to use their own time if management does not allow you to report to work.

If a coworker reports to work with cold or flu symptoms, what should I do?

No one should be reporting to work sick. All Departments should follow University guidance relating to anyone exhibiting symptoms or exposure to an individual who has tested positive. There is a reporting process that rolls upward through the medical campus and other appropriate offices (e.g. Workforce Health and Safety). University protocols are consistent with those of <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>.

I am on standby and am staying at home without work. How should I complete my timesheet?

Please ask your supervisor for guidance on this, as each department may be handling this differently. If issues arise regarding pay, please reach out to the Union as soon as possible and we will work with you resolving the situation. You can email us 1199-ssa@1199.org.

Columbia University Irving Medical Center has also compiled their own list of resources and additional information, to learn more: <https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/information-providers-and-clinical-staff>