

April 16, 2020

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97230

Dear Members:

Things are changing day by day regarding COVID-19 and I want to make sure that I am communicating with you all to ensure that we remain on the same page. There have been a couple of items that have come up repeatedly this week; hopefully this letter provides helpful clarification.

First, Benesys recently made a temporary change to the Flex Plan Supplemental Wage Replacement that will allow members to access these funds prior to receiving unemployment benefits from the state. An affidavit was created to be used by our members to verify that they had filed for unemployment benefits; this may be submitted in place of proof of funds received. To utilize this method, you **MUST** complete the standard Flex Plan Form in addition to the affidavit. Your claim will be denied if both forms are not sent in together.

Secondly, I would like to address the use of face coverings on job sites. I have been informed that there are General Contractors that are now requiring the use of face coverings on job sites and I expect more will follow this trend. I want to be clear that the Union's position is that the use of face coverings is NOT to be a substitute for social distancing. A six- (6-) foot minimum distance from others is still required. Face coverings should only be used for additional protection but cannot and should not be relied on to keep you safe. Please review the CDC recommendations and the Governor's Executive Order, both of which can be found on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or a Business Representative.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,



Garth Bachman
Business Manager
Financial Secretary
GB:lk
OPEIU#11/AFL-CIO

