

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Additional Supplementary Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Amid CORONAVIRUS Pandemic

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that are common and typically associated with mild illnesses similar to the common cold. However, the **Novel Coronavirus** (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. The most recent coronavirus, initially known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), is now formally named COVID-19.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they usually begin in animals. While rare, coronaviruses can evolve to infect people (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). In some cases, the coronavirus can evolve further and spread from person-to-person although the route of transmission is not always known. Viruses are generally thought to spread by respiratory droplets (coughing or sneezing) when people are in close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person or touching a surface contaminated with the infectious fluid and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes).

Each coronavirus will vary in the severity of infection it causes. Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, respiratory issues, kidney failure and sometimes death. 2019-nCoV presents with fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough or difficulty breathing). Fever may not be present in all people. Identification of 2019-nCoV is made through tests as well as patient history (especially recent travel).

This pandemic can affect your work, family and community involvement especially when asked to self-quarantine. When someone is quarantined, that doesn't mean they are infected with the coronavirus. Quarantines are meant to restrict the movement of people who **may have been exposed to the contagious disease** but haven't tested positive. The quarantine timeframe is usually 14 days to see whether flu-like symptoms develop. The 14-day incubation period is based on what researchers know about the incubation period of MERS, which is in the same family as the Novel Coronavirus.

The Trustees share in everyone's health concerns and will continue to monitor the benefit plans on an ongoing basis.

Your Board of Trustees

Victor Langdon (Chair)

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Amid the growing concern over COVID-19 your Local 67 Board of Trustees have authorized your Plan Administrator to compensate, for up to three additional weeks, sick benefits SUB, for anyone under quarantine or sick, due to the coronavirus pandemic, provided all other SUB conditions are met.

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