

March 24, 2020

COVID-19 and YOU

Accurate information

It is vitally important that members have access to accurate information. The best site for up-to-date and accurate information is the PEI government public health site:

www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19.

There is a CBS site with information specific to CBS: <https://www.blood.ca/en/employees>

The PEI site is updated every day and often has commentary by government leaders and, most importantly, **Dr. Morrison**, the head of public health in the province. As of March 22nd there were 3 cases of COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island.

Legal situation

There are employees whose services must be continued throughout this crisis. For example: health care workers (hospitals, nursing homes, home visits, blood collection), pharmacies, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.

The PEI government has provided a list of examples of services and business that are considered essential for our society to keep operating:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/inform>

[ation/health-and-wellness/essential-and-non-essential-services-covid-19](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/essential-and-non-essential-services-covid-19)

The PEI government declared a State of Emergency some time ago.

This means:

No large gatherings. The government web site gives examples of exceptions:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/essential-and-non-essential-services>.

Social distancing (more correctly called **physical distancing**) is mandatory where possible. If you are walking down the street, stay 2 metres away from other pedestrians. That's not possible when you are taking blood.

Entrants to PEI will have to self-isolate.

Anyone coming from outside PEI will be required to self-isolate. There are exceptions which would include NSUPE Local 12 CBS Drivers going to and returning from PEI and NB.

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/essential-and-non-essential-services>

CBS workplaces

Many employers, including CBS, have put measures in place to reduce the risk of employees becoming infected with the Corona virus.

At CBS clinics:

Pre-screening of donors has been implemented. Most people who donate blood know that they do not donate when they are not well. Dr. Morrison has encouraged healthy Islanders to donate blood: "Islanders who are not self-isolating are encouraged to consider blood donation if they are feeling well and have not travelled internationally. Keeping up with the demand of Canada's national supply of blood products is very important. Islanders should take the online eligibility quiz before making an appointment. Appointments must be made in advance by visiting www.blood.ca (link is external) or by calling 1-888-2-donate, to allow for social distancing." [March 20, 2020]

Donors are to be **kept a prescribed distance** from one another.

There will be regular **sanitizing of surfaces**.

If employees see situations which they reasonably believe to be unnecessarily risky, they should speak with a supervisor and, if necessary, notify a union representative.

If there is a reduction in services, employees will be paid their **specified hours** or their **averaged hours** if they have no specified hours, while they are not working. If there are enough qualified employees a rotation will be arranged.

If an employee has a **child or family member that needs care** they should try to arrange alternate care. It may also be that the employee can work different shifts (e.g. evening shift when the spouse gets home). If neither is possible the employee will be placed on leave with pay.

While on **paid leave** employees must be available for work (except for child care, etc. situations). If an employee gets sick then they are to notify management that they are sick (not giving the diagnosis) and will be placed on **sick leave** with deductions from their sick leave bank, until they recover and are available for work again.

Visit the Nova Scotia web site www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus/ every day for an accurate update.

NSUPE Local 19 Executive:

Tanya Herrell – President

Leanne Voutour – Vice-President

Patti Hooley – Secretary/Treasurer

Information on NSUPE:

www.nsupe.ca

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