COVID-19 Continued Awareness

As all of us are well aware, Covid-19 has made quite an impact on our livelihood and on society in general. By the time this article goes to print some weeks from now, we will have progressed further into this situation than I can forecast at this time. That being said, my current feeling is that this is a serious situation that requires clear judgement and cooperation. We have all heard the suggested guidelines for avoidance and the possible effects of exposure. Even though the information has been available for some time now, I feel a responsibility to reiterate the most common guidelines and to provide links to accurate, responsible sources for up to date information. The information available is comprehensive and is far too great to list here, so I strongly encourage you to follow up to educate yourself with facts.

Please consider not only the safety of yourself and your immediate family, but the safety of your fellow members of the IBEW, other trades, and society in general. None of us want to be the potential transmitter due to negligence that may affect others, especially those that are at a higher risk of serious health complications. For those that are fortunate enough to return to the jobsite, please follow the precautions set in place with all of the seriousness that you would use for daily construction safety.

- Check the Local 332 website for updates
- The virus has an incubation period of approximately 5 days in which a seemingly healthy person may spread it to others.
- Focus on avoiding cross contamination on every surface you touch. If you wash your hands then touch an infected surface, the handwashing only gave you a false sense of security.
- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds minimum with soap and water
- Avoid close contact with others to within less than 6 feet
- If you are feeling run down but not really “sick” consider that you may be in the incubation period or infected and only experiencing mild symptoms. If this is the case, you should certainly self-isolate and avoid going to work.
- At this time, test kits are in limited supply. If you are unable to be tested, use common sense to follow the most cautious course of action if you or your household exhibits signs of illness.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wash hands after eating, drinking, smoking, sneezing, blowing nose, coughing, using the restroom, and after removing gloves.
- Dispose of potentially contaminated articles in a controlled container.
- Do not share food.
- Do not share tools. Try to isolate your tools from others.
- Follow company safety guidelines and the guidelines provided in the links below.

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/
https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html
https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/coronavirus
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Thank you for your cooperation. Stay healthy and safe.

Brett McClure
Safety Committee Chairman