



Bulletin 25 March 2020

COVID-19 Employee Entitlements Update

Dear <<First Name>>,

United Workers Union members will have received - [**IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE: HR Guideline – Support for employees affected by novel coronavirus**](#) – update from Michael Metcalfe ASM, Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services, Queensland Ambulance Service on 23 March 2020.

This update included information regarding [**Human Resource Guideline - Support for employees affected by the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)**](#). This Guideline is a direct result of the whole of government directive - [**Employment arrangements in the event of a health pandemic \(Directive 01/20\)**](#) being applied to all QAS staff. It is not an individual directive for QAS employees.

This whole of government directive goes some way to providing for entitlements for staff affected by novel coronavirus and the United Workers Union believes the package is a good start but does not go as far as we have been advocating for. The United Workers Union has had a [**national policy position**](#) advocating that no worker, particularly those participating in the front line response to COVID-19, should be disadvantaged should they become ill or unable to work.

It is the United Workers Union position that any ambulance officer who contracts COVID-19 should not have to exhaust their sick leave or other entitlements before the special or pandemic leave becomes accessible.

As a major stakeholder with Qld Government, representatives of your Union have been advocating with the Office of Industrial Relations, the Health and Ambulance Minister and the Industrial Relations Minister to ensure Ambulance members' unique circumstances are taken into account. United Workers Union continues discussions with Government about this on behalf of all of our members and will continue to advocate that particularly those on the front line should be given consideration in these unprecedented of environments.

As more information comes to hand members will be updated. If you have specific queries about your personal circumstances that aren't able to be answered by the information in the attached Human Resources Guideline please contact your United Workers Union.

If you have a co-worker who isn't a member and isn't receiving these updates share this [link to the United Workers union join form](#) so they can join your Union and be kept up to date about workplace issues.

Authorised by Sharron Caddie, Public Sector Director
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