

# AFL-CIO

DAILY BRIEF

## Labor's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic—Daily Brief

The labor movement continues to lead the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can look at your inbox every day for this daily brief from the AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka (UMWA) led a Facebook Live event for union members across the United States. He called on the federal government to urgently provide more protections for front-line workers and make emergency investments in unemployment insurance (UI) and expanded sick leave.

Watch Here

## WORKING PEOPLE'S DEMANDS IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

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|--|---|
|  Workplace Safety Protections |  Free Testing and More Hospital Beds |
|  Paid Sick Days               |  A Real Say in Any Bailouts          |
|  Unemployment Insurance       | ✓ No Layoffs  |
|  Health Care                  | ✓ No Wage Cuts  |
|  Help Paying the Bills        | ✓ No Benefit Cuts   |
|  | ✓ No Busting of Union Contracts   |
|  | ✓ Workers on Corporate Boards   |

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### Safety and Health Update

The AFL-CIO Safety and Health Committee convened to discuss strategic short-term and long-term safety and health actions. These include planning for Workers Memorial Day in the midst of the pandemic. The federation's Safety and Health team also made a presentation to affiliate lawyers on existing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mechanisms that could protect working people from COVID-19. A call will be held today with health care union affiliates on the shortage of personal protective equipment.

### Machinists Race to Fill Ventilator Shortage

Machinists (IAM) Local 1406 members at General Electric's Datex-Ohmeda in Madison, Wisconsin, are in a [race against the clock to produce ventilators](#) needed in the worldwide fight against the current COVID-19 pandemic. The more than 340 workers—who build anesthesia, respiratory and infant care machines—ratified a one-year emergency contract extension Thursday night in a lightning fast attempt to meet the sudden increased demand for ventilators across the globe.

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### **Grocery Workers Win New Pay Protections**

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) locals in Washington state reached an agreement earlier this week with Kroger brands to provide [two weeks of pay](#) to workers diagnosed with COVID-19 and those who are required to self-quarantine before they have to use any of their sick time. Management also agreed to work with the unions to push the state and federal governments to treat grocery workers as emergency responders.

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### **Child Care Workers Teach Good Hygiene**

Children may be at lower risk of suffering critical illness due to the coronavirus, but it is vital they know how to slow its spread. Child care workers like Miren Algorri with United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930 in California are [showing kids how to fight the spread of germs](#).

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### **TTD Announces Principles**

The AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department has published a list of [three principles for fighting COVID-19 and the growing economic crisis](#):

1. Addressing the immediate health crisis and keeping workers safe.
  2. Providing immediate economic relief for those whose livelihood is threatened.
  3. Administering long-term economic stability for transportation workers and the systems they support.
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### **Food Manufacturing Continues Because of Union Members' Hard Work**

Members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) are working long shifts at plants throughout North America making General Mills, Quaker Oats and Kellogg's cereals, bars, breads, rolls, yogurts and much more. Union members are helping make sure working Americans and our families have enough of these food staples in our homes to get through the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### **Legal Update**

The AFL-CIO Office of the General Counsel conducted a webinar for affiliate labor lawyers across the country Thursday on legal issues arising out of the public health crisis. Topics included OSHA, Americans with Disabilities Act, unemployment insurance, bargaining and more. Affiliate lawyers participating included the general counsels of the United

Steelworkers (USW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA). More than 750 lawyers participated, including lawyers from SEIU, the National Education Association and the Teamsters.

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### Support for State Federations and Central Labor Councils

As a follow-up to Wednesday's webinar led by President Trumka, the AFL-CIO sent out a list of state and local policy recommendations on emergency funding for supplies and equipment, protection for front-line workers, expanded paid sick leave, UI and more.

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### Communications Coordination

Nearly 70 union communicators joined a call Thursday, organized by the AFL-CIO Communications Department, to discuss ways to coordinate on messaging, press and information sharing. Ideas discussed were creating a booking operation to put union members on television, as well as digital and social campaigns, highlighting the heroism of front-line workers, and developing a unified ask for legislators. The call will occur each week at 3 p.m. ET on Thursday until further notice.

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### COVID-19 in Numbers

From [Johns Hopkins University](#) (as of publication time):

- More than 255,000 global cases and more than 10,000 deaths have been confirmed.
  - The coronavirus has now spread to at least 163 countries/regions.
  - There have been at least 210 deaths in the United States.
  - More than 14,000 cases in all 50 states, three U.S. territories and Washington, D.C., have been reported in the U.S.
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### Headlines

- CNBC: [New York Gov. Cuomo Orders 75% of Nonessential Workers to Stay Home as Cases Surge to 4,152](#)
- In These Times: [You and Your Boss Have the Same Interests Right Now. That Is a Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Jobless Claims Rise Sharply at Front End of Expected Coronavirus Surge](#)
- The Sacramento Bee: [Nurses Told to Use Bandanas, Scarves as 'Last Resort' if Masks Run Out, CDC Says](#)
- National Labor Relations Board: [NLRB Suspends Representation Elections Through April 3, 2020](#)