

Dear USA Members,
We'd like to thank everyone for your solidarity during this challenging time!

We had our daily meeting with UMass Amherst Labor Relations to discuss the COVID-19 national emergency. Here are the latest developments:

- The following guidance is still in effect: **If you have been designated as an "onsite" employee and you have risk factors such as being over the age of 60, being pregnant, or having a chronic health condition such as heart disease, diabetes or lung disease (including asthma)— DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS! You are eligible for alternative work assignments during the COVID-19 outbreak.** Such employees should continue to contact Central HR at 413-687-2283 or Covid19HR@umass.edu, and the HR representative will consult with the department and approve the request.
- Management has sent USA an initial, but incomplete, list of "onsite" staff to replace the essential personnel list ("snow day list"). You may be informed by your supervisor today (or already have been informed) about a change in your status from non-essential staff to "onsite" staff, or vice versa.
- **If you *HAVE NOT* been notified that you are an "onsite" employee, you should work remotely.** Your supervisor should be in contact with you to determine work capabilities and assignments. If you are non-essential and you are unable to work remotely, you should still stay home; you will continue to be compensated as we work out further plans and details.
- **If you *HAVE* been notified that you are an "onsite" employee, you should report to work as directed by your supervisor.** Some "onsite" staff might be asked to work from campus on a rotating schedule; this may look different across business units.
- USA is doing everything we can to minimize work on campus and provide "onsite" workers with everything needed to maintain safe working conditions.
- On Wednesday, 3/18, USA staff in Administration and Finance (A&F) and Residential Life who normally report to work on a "snow day" should come to campus. If you work in A&F and Residential Life and don't usually come to work when the university closes for a snowstorm, work from home to the extent you can.
- USA will be meeting with management on Wednesday, 3/18, to begin bargaining over these and other changes to our work conditions.

If you feel that you are being asked to work in a way that endangers safety or health of yourself and others, especially if you've been informed you're an "onsite" employee, immediately contact Central HR at 413-687-2283 or Covid19HR@umass.edu, and notify your supervisor and USA to discuss steps that may be taken to address your concerns.

FAQs for staff, including on working remotely, can be found here: <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/news/employee-guidance-faq>

FAQs for supervisors can be found here: <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/news/managers-supervisors-guidance-remote-work>

Updates and general information on the University's response to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/>

In Solidarity,

Leslie Marsland, USA President

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