

INTRODUCTION

AFSCME Council 93 Unit 2 members in Massachusetts are vital in ongoing efforts related to the COVID-19 crisis. Our members are on the front lines of this fight, delivering essential public services in DMH, DDS, DPH, DYS, CME, DOC, and DCR.

In an effort to assist individuals and families impacted by this crisis, AFSCME and other public-sector unions worked to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The new federal law, (effective 4/1/20) provides for expanded individual paid sick and family medical leave for Covid-related issues.

However, the law allows employers to exempt certain workers (including many Unit 2 members) from accessing the leave time because they are considered "emergency responders" needed to provide core services critical to protecting public health and continuing the delivery of essential government operations as defined by the Governor Baker.

To ensure the health and safety of our members; their families; and the public, AFSCME Council 93 has been in discussions with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to ensure our Unit 2 members are still protected.

Council 93 has worked with the state to successfully secure additional individual sick and family leave time and job protections that are comparable to those provided under the FFCRA. Additionally, the state is offering free child care through the duration of the crisis to core employees at a number of facilities across the state to ease the burden on front line employees with children.

These provisions ensure that AFSCME members will be able to care for themselves and family members - **WITHOUT LOSS OF PAY** - in the event COVID-19 related leave time is needed.

COVID-19 PROTECTIONS FOR UNIT 2 MEMBERS

Core Employees are being given up to ten (10) additional sick days to use in the event of their own need to quarantine or to care for a family member who has been quarantined related to COVID-19. These days will be paid at the full salary rate.

Non-Core Employees can apply for up to 80-hours of Emergency Paid Sick Leave under FFCRA in the event of their own need to quarantine or to care for a family member who has been quarantined related to COVID-19.

Core Employees are eligible for FREE emergency childcare. Over 450 Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs have been established across Massachusetts under the direction of the Dept. of Early Education and Care.

List of Emergency Child Care Providers

For more information on the ongoing COVID-19 crisis please visit www.afscme93.org/Unit2COVID

or

Contact Council 93 Human Services Coordinator Paul Faria
pfaria@afscme93.org | 774-202-8066

All Executive Branch employees who are sick, regardless of their role, are strongly directed to stay home from work to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19.