

Jesus Canchola Sanchez

From: Daniel Zapata
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:34 AM
To: dph.ccr@illinois.gov
Cc: Daniel Zapata
Subject: Health Care Facility Complaint

Attention to Illinois Department of Public Health:

On behalf of its members employed by Cook County Health and Hospitals System at Cermak Health Services of Cook County, SEIU Local 73 files this complaint against Cermak Health Services of Cook County located at 2800 South California Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60608. The contact for Cermak Health Services of Cook County is Chief Operating Engineer Linda Follenweider. The phone numbers for Cermak Health Services of Cook County are 773-674-3013 and 773-674-7488. Cermak Health Services of Cook County is a health care facility that is part of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System. Per the Cook County Health website, Cermak Health Services provides healthcare to the detainees at the Cook County Department of Corrections. See <https://cookcountyhealth.org/locations/cermak-health-services-of-cook-county/>

The public health complaint of SEIU Local 73 members is as follows: Emergency Response Technicians, Corrections Response Technicians, and Patient Care Assistants at Cermak are concerned about their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of the detainees housed at Cermak. Our workplace, Cook County Jail, is a COVID-19 hotspot and has been reported to have the highest number of COVID-19 infections of any similar facility in the country. The facility has not been thoroughly cleaned or disinfected since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Staff are not provided with sufficient personal protective equipment such as face shields and N95 masks. The N95 masks that we have been provided are being worn for much longer than intended and puts us at risk of being infected. We are assigned hundreds of detainees to take vital signs every day on different tiers with varying levels of exposure to the COVID-19 virus with no possibility of social distancing and are working within inches of detainees who are COVID-19 positive or suspected of potentially being COVID-19 positive. We are using hand-me-down equipment from other Cook County facilities, such as mouth thermometers and blood pressure cuffs. It is not a safe working environment for us or the detainees.

Unsanitary working conditions related to COVID-19, including not having an adequate supply of personal protective equipment such as not having enough face shields and not being provided with N95 masks or having to use the same N95 mask for longer than intended.

SEIU Local 73 is filing this complaint on behalf of our members, who are employees of Cermak Health Services. SEIU Local 73 requests that IDPH investigate the unsanitary and unsafe conditions at Cermak Health Services. Please let me know if you need any more information or have any questions.

My contact information is as follows:
Daniel Zapata, General Counsel
SEIU Local 73
300 South Ashland Avenue, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60607
Ph. 312 588 7488
Fax. 312 588 7489
Email dzapata@seiu73.org

Sincerely,

Daniel Zapata
General Counsel
Service Employees International Union, Local 73
300 South Ashland Ave. Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60607
(312) 588-7488
(312) 588-7489 (fax)

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