



# SEIU LOCAL 73

## STRONGER TOGETHER

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | CPS UPDATE

If you have an urgent question, call the Member Action Center at 312-787-5868

#### What is going on at CPS?

We know these are challenging times and we wanted to assure you that your Union is with you. It seems like every day there is breaking news about decisions CPS is making that deeply impact you, your loved ones, and your school communities. CPS is forcing you all to make incredibly difficult choices when it comes to your safety and your job security, but you are not alone. Your Union is fighting to hold CPS accountable to its staff and students. **See the Local 73 Press Statement: [CPS Plan to Hire Non-Union Workers Fails to Ensure Safety of Reopening](#).** Finally, we have included some Frequently Asked Questions we have heard from members along with the answers we have received thus far. While you and your Union have been able to shape much of the current plan, you'll notice that CPS continues to leave much unanswered, which is why we are demanding a seat at the bargaining table, not simply nonbinding discussions.

#### What is the COVID protocol following actionable cases and contact tracing? How should impacted staff be informed?

Actionable cases are defined as COVID-positive and at risk of exposing others. CPS will only take action after the staff person who tests positive SELF-REPORTS via [CPS.edu/covidresults](https://cps.edu/covidresults). CPS is in the process of creating an informational graphic explaining the process that will be shared with staff. Additionally, all staff should receive training on the protocol.

#### Why are some schools receiving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) addressed only to clerks?

PPE should be distributed and available based on job duty, NOT job title. Every member should receive PPE and if additional PPE are needed, they should be provided to you.

#### What PPE should be available for staff?

All staff should receive three cloth/reusable face masks. Additional PPE should be provided based on job duty.

#### Overview of PPE distribution:

- PPE will initially be centrally sourced and supplied by CPS.
- All staff and students will each be provided with three Cloth Face Coverings (CFCs).
- Anyone over the age of 2 must wear a cloth face covering while in a school building in the state of Illinois.
  - Masking accommodations may be requested based on medical need
- All schools will receive 1,000 disposable masks per year. This is to supplement when students forget their masks.
- Additional PPE will be provided based on job duties
  - Tasks that require direct contact with bodily fluids require gloves, a face shield, and a surgical mask.
  - Tasks that require direct contact with bodily fluids and have the potential for aerosolization of those fluids require gloves and a face shield, gown, and N95 level of protection.

\*\*\*Call the Member Action Center (MAC) at 312-787-5868 or your union organizer if you do not receive the appropriate PPE as outlined above.

**Will school bus aides be required to perform temperature checks before students board the bus?**

Bus Aides will be checking each student's temperature in addition to assessing whether they have completed the health screener before they board the bus. CPS is in the process of creating a "Day in the Life" guide for school bus aides that provides details for what is expected of them and will be shared shortly.

**PPE for Bus Aides:**

- (4) Masks
- (1) Face Shield
- (1) Bucket of sanitizing wipes (500 counts)
- (1) 16oz Hand Sanitizer
- (2) Orange CPS Polos
- (1) Safety Vest
- (1) CPS Issued Temperature Wands
- (1) CPS Issued Phone

**PPE for Bus Monitors:**

- (4) Masks
- (1) Face Shield
- (1) Bucket of sanitizing wipes (500 counts)
- (1) 16oz Hand Sanitizer
- (2) Orange CPS Polos
- (1) Safety Vest

**How are accommodation and leave requests being handled?**

Accommodation and leave requests are determined on a case-by-case basis and school-specific basis. Both the school and CPS central office decides which leave or accommodation request is or is not approved. Unfortunately, it appears that CPS is denying a large amount of telework accommodation requests and arguing they would cause "undue hardship" if granted. Again, CPS is forcing members to make extremely tough choices, but if other union members are approved for the same request then so should you.

We understand that the first reopening date is around the corner, and we will continue to communicate with members as we have more information. Until then, please reach out to the Local 73 steward at your school, your union organizer, or the Member Action Center at 312-787-5868 (in that order) if you have additional questions or concerns.

From all of us here at Local 73, we sincerely hope you can find some peace and rest over the next couple of weeks and we will be here, ready to carry on the fight when you return!