

Brothers and Sisters

In an effort to keep you armed and informed with latest information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we feel that the following information and resources are important enough for you and your members that we wanted to “circle back around” to unsure you had not missed them in the overwhelming amount of information you’ve received this past week.

Exposures

Earlier this week the IAFF sent a COVID-19 tracking survey to all affiliates in the United States and Canada asking for information on the number of members who have been quarantined, isolated and tested positive, as well as what type of leave members in these categories are using. Below is a snapshot summary of the findings as of March 17 for 482 locals that reported data. These numbers are sorted by district so you can see data specific to a respective district. As of this correspondence, 34 out of the 265 Ohio Locals have reported data to the IAFF.

The IAFF is continuing to work on the GIS tool that will enable affiliates to track the spread among our members going forward. Once the tool is fully up to speed, they will be able to report these numbers in real-time.

- 482 locals reporting.
- 743 members quarantined.
- 505 members in isolation.
- 12 tested positive for COVID-19.
- 84 locals have test kits available.
- 180 locals report their departments are offering some type of administrative leave if exposed and quarantined.
- 85 locals report members have to use their own leave.
- More than 200 don’t know what the leave provisions are.

District	Quarantined	Isolation	Tested Positive
District 1	177	118	2
District 2	9	1	0
District 3	48	18	0
District 4	50	11	1
District 5	17	4	0
District 6	127	89	0
District 7	77	34	4
District 8	81	10	1
District 9	34	15	0
District 10	35	12	0
District 11	20	64	0
District 12	23	19	4
District 13	25	93	0
District 14	18	10	0
District 15	3	4	0
District 16	0	2	0

If you have not done so already, please take the time to log onto the IAFF website and complete this [COVID-19 tracking survey](#)

State of Ohio – General Population Statistics

The following information was obtained from Governor DeWine's office;

"There are 247 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and three deaths. A total of 58 people are hospitalized. Dr. Acton warned that this data is not reflective of the true extent of COVID-19 in Ohio.

"This data is a snapshot of the past because everything points to the fact that we had a seeding of COVID-19 in Ohio early on, yet we were one of the last states to get the reagents we needed to do testing," said Dr. Acton. "This data is not telling the full story of what is happening here. Even the data you see in the future is minimal because we are conserving all our available testing for the most high-risk and hospitalized front line workers. We are withholding most of our testing because we are running out of reagent to conduct these tests."

Deaths: Cuyahoga (1), Erie (1), Lucas (1).

Confirmed cases: Ashland (1), Ashtabula (1), Belmont (2), Butler (16), Clark (1), Clermont (2), Coshocton (2), Cuyahoga (92), Darke (1), Defiance (2), Delaware (4), Erie (1), Franklin (21), Gallia (1), Geauga (1), Hamilton (8), Huron (1), Lake (4), Licking (1), Lorain (14), Lucas (4), Mahoning (14), Marion (1), Medina (9), Miami (11), Montgomery (1), Richland (1), Stark (8), Summit (15), Trumbull (3), Tuscarawas (1), Union (1), Warren (2)."

Personal Exposure Tracking

At our recent Winter Educational Conference Dr. Lori Moore presented on the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS). This system has an app for your phone to make tracking exposures easier.

As you know with almost everything dealing with any governmental agency and potential benefits to an injured or sick employee, accurate records can make all the difference in winning approval or being denied. We cannot urge you enough to use the [National Fire Operations Reporting System \(NFORS\) Exposure mobile app](#) to help in collecting national exposure data for all fire fighters and paramedics. Watch the [demo video](#) on how to enter data.

Exposure Notification to Fire/EMS personnel

An extremely important issue has surfaced regarding the notification of Fire/EMS personnel following a suspected/confirmed exposure. In Springfield Township (IAFF Local 3544) near Toledo, crews there responded/transported a patient who has become the States' first COVID-19 death. The exposure occurred on March 12th – and responders found out through a social media post.

Here is the story as reported by the Toledo Blade;

<https://www.toledoblade.com/local/Coronavirus/2020/03/20/toledo-lucas-county-health-department-hospital-fail-to-notify-firefighters-of-exposure-to-coronavirus/stories/20200320118>

This has happened in several other jurisdictions all across the nation. Generally, the denials are being based on the HIPAA privacy protections for patients.

The IAFF is aware of this matter and has asked their General Counsel to research the issue. The [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009](#) was enacted to ensure that First Responders are notified by hospitals when they may have been exposed to infectious diseases. We strongly encourage all of you to review your FD policies, policies of those hospitals where you routinely transport patients as well as your local Health Dept policies discuss this with your administrations and respective medical directors. We have attached two specific documents from IAFF General Counsel Doug Steel to this email for your review in this process.

Additional resources and information can be found at www.oapff.org/covid-19/. **once we get it lined out to where you don't have to read every link to see if you can find what you're looking for.** We encourage you to check this site regularly for **updated** information. If you have questions or concerns that we can help you with, please reach out to OAPFF Director of Health, Safety & EMS, David Bernzweig at dbernzweig@oapff.org or your respective District Vice President.

Stay Safe, Stay Informed, Stay United

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