



## Health & Safety Task Force

Ed Watt      Mark Johnson      Michael Massoni      Michael Conigliaro

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Dear Local President:

As you know from recent press reports, the pandemic flu has the potential of hospitalizing over 2 million Americans this flu season. Considering the scope and importance of activities and services performed by our Locals and members, and the fact that a pandemic could happen in parallel with other regular issues, it is important to be prepared.

The Health Safety Task Force has been part of important labor forums that are discussing this issue. As the threat of this pandemic arose the Health and Safety Task Force has been actively involved in crafting solutions and gathering resources to help you deal with this issue. We have kept information flowing through our weekly newsletter. We have a seat on the AFL-CIO Pandemic Flu Group and have contributed to the discussions of the Seminar *Protecting Non-Healthcare Workers from H1N1 Virus: Risk Assessment and Control Measures for "Medium Risk" Jobs*, held at the National Labor College in July, as well as many other seminars and conference calls. We have also been analyzing scientific and official documents and guides on this issue, some of which you can find on the attached list of links.

Using the accumulated information as a background, the Health Safety Task Force has drafted guidelines to help control the virus among the staff and to keep your Local running with a minimum amount of disruption. There are several suggestions in the controls and procedures sections of the following draft which will help you to coordinate techniques such as social distancing, staggering hours, split shifts, and telecommuting. The responsibilities of each department within your Local as well as the expected results may vary according to each Local's profile. Your experience may also vary by the services that your Local offers and the level of physical interaction between the union staff, and between staff and members.

The draft is also a guide for negotiations that you may want to engage in with your respective employers to better service our members and to provide for their needs in a time of possible pandemic.

If your Local has a plan, please share with us. If you want to give any suggestions or inputs, or have any doubt, please send your message to our assistant, Monia Besch (mbesch@twu.org).

To help strengthen strategies, we will circulate the information we receive. Be sure you'll be included.

Thank you,

**Ed Watt**  
**Health & Safety Director**  
**Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO**

**Information resources on Pandemic Flu**

OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic

[http://www.osha.gov/Publications/influenza\\_pandemic.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/influenza_pandemic.html)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

[www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Response, and Recovery: Guide for critical infrastructure and key resources, Mass Transit Sub-Sector

<http://www.dot.gov/pandemicflu/pdf/masstransit.pdf>

CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the 2009–2010 Influenza Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/guidance/>