March 24, 2020

**Update on Contact Tracing of Asymptomatic Travelers**

This week, the Department of Homeland Security informed NTEU that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is no longer conducting contact tracing of international travelers who later are diagnosed with COVID-19. This means the CDC will not inform CBP about any travelers who were asymptomatic when they came through the ports but subsequently tested positive.

Instead, CBP has now informed NTEU that all CBP personnel are considered at risk of exposure through the normal course of duty and should take precautions, such as regular use of PPE and a heightened awareness of symptoms.

NTEU continues to encourage CBP and the administration to provide more coronavirus testing of CBP employees, free of charge. As the workload decreases during this worldwide health crisis, NTEU also expects CBP to take more action to reduce the amount of time employees are exposed to others in close proximity.

**NTEU Seeking Hazardous Duty Pay**

CDC’s discontinuance of contact tracing and DHS and CBP now advising that all frontline employees are at risk of exposure through the normal course of duty are yet more reasons NTEU is pursuing hazardous duty pay for CBP personnel.

The economic stimulus package released by the House includes a provision that would ensure hazardous duty pay for CBP personnel and others during this pandemic and NTEU is working on Capitol Hill to make sure it is included in the final bill.

Hazardous duty is work performed under circumstances in which an accident could result in serious injury or death, and during this pandemic, we believe the work being done by CBP certainly qualifies.

**CBP Plans to Adjust Staffing to Help Reduce COVID-19 Exposure**

The details are still being worked out between CBP and local ports, but CBP has committed to NTEU to look at ways to reduce staffing levels to give employees more time at home and
reduce the potential for exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We believe this will help with child-
care schedules and also improve safety at a time when public health officials are urging
Americans to stay home.

As traffic in air, sea and land ports continues to drop, NTEU expects DFOs and Port Directors
to start reducing the number of frontline personnel on duty on any given shift. This will not be
a pay cut; employees would instead receive weather and safety leave for hours not worked
below 40 hours per week.

Local NTEU leaders are committed to working with CBP to structure schedules that are fair to
all frontline employees.

NTEU’s Mission: To organize federal employees to work together to ensure that every
federal employee is treated with dignity and respect.

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