
Subject: PFT Coronavirus Update March 27, 2020
MOU status, Health reminders, AFT news

CORONA VIRUS

Updates

Dear Dan:

Wish I could be with you at a PFT Final Friday today instead of writing to you from my dining room surrounded by piles of work. I look forward to a day in the near future when we can celebrate together!

Thank you once again for your emails, texts and words of kind encouragement—we do stand together and we will get through this together.

Unfortunately, David May-Stein had to delay our conference call today—it has been rescheduled for Monday—so some of your questions will be put on hold until that time.

However, please know that Bill, Harold and I have been in constant contact—and we have also been in contact with PFT attorney Noah Jordan, AFT Staff Reps Walt Michalski and Paul Homer, the District's attorney Ira Weiss, Executive Board members, and members in general to make sure that we have all the relevant information, ideas and input that we need to move ahead to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline working conditions for the online learning that is being rolled out by the district.

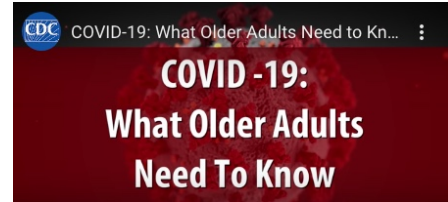
The District should inform principals that a MOU *will be developed as a district, and schools will NOT make up individual rules, hours and conditions on their own.*

As always, we will keep you informed of any and all developments. Stay safe, well and in touch.

Staying Well While Staying At Home.

From the trusted CDC website comes an informative video for anyone acting as a caregiver for a person battling cancer or facing a cancer diagnosis themselves, as well as anyone in a higher risk group for contracting COVID-19.

If you are one of the people at increased risk for serious COVID-19 illness, it's especially important for you to take action to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19 now. [This video](#) offers tips to help you prepare to stay home for a few weeks if you have to.



These tips can help cancer patients, high risk patients and their family members and caregivers stay healthy while staying home. [Visit the complete CDC page here.](#)

AFT Loses Member in New York.

In case you didn't see the news we shared on Twitter, we've lost a brother in AFT Higher Ed—an adjunct professor who was a member of the United College Employees-Fashion Institute of Technology and the New York State United Teachers. Read the brief [statement from NYSUT President Andy Pallotta here.](#)

A Simple Reminder As Our Challenges Press On—Help Is Out There.

A graphic with a dark blue background. On the left is a white speech bubble icon with an exclamation mark and three dots. To the right, the text "IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP" is written in white, with "IT'S OKAY TO" on one line and "ASK FOR HELP" on the next. Below this, in a lighter blue font, is the text: "If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, contact the crisis text line by texting PA to 741-741." In the bottom right corner is a white icon of a person with a lightning bolt, representing a crisis line.

**IT'S OKAY TO
ASK FOR HELP**

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, contact the crisis text line by texting PA to 741-741.

AFT's "Thank A Teacher" Blog Shares Truths Educators Have Known For Years.

Check out this [collection of appreciative commentary](#) from people across the country who have been thrust into the role of educator.



Don't forget to add your support when you Tweet, Facebook, or Instagram by using the hashtags: #ThankATeacher or #ThankASupportStaff.

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves. *It will do so daily.*

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members](#)

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) (*login upper right*)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control](#)

[Allegheny County Health Department Rumor Control](#)

Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity—

Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).