

The Novel Coronavirus

Workers and Employers Want to Know

Q. Workers and employers have asked the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC): "If a worker or manager, acting in good faith, reports for work and is subsequently found to be sick... should that worker or manager be required to absent himself/herself from the workplace in order to be isolated, tested and (if necessary) treated?"

A. Given the current pandemic status of the Novel Coronavirus, the JSC's guidance in such a matter must be provided in a manner that preserves the health and safety of as many ILA members and management representatives as possible.

In order to flatten the infection curve being experienced nationally, the JSC must recommend that sick workers and managers should be required to absent themselves (voluntarily or through direct order) so that other workers and managers who are not ill may be spared the risks of being infected with the Novel Coronavirus.

We make that recommendation with the full understanding that a certain degree of potentially negative financial impact may be present for individuals who are required to absent themselves, but also that Federal legislation currently includes provisions that will substantially soften that impact. Moreover, in speaking with industry employers we're made to understand that there is a prevailing sentiment that no worker or manager should be unduly impacted when engaged in an effort designed to protect our industry and the health and safety of the people who make it work.

The JSC provides the foregoing guidance after very careful consideration, and with the overriding goal of preserving the health and safety of as many ILA members and management representatives as possible in these very challenging times. [19 March 2020]

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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