

IBEW Local 241 Brothers & Sisters
Ithaca, NY 14850

March 30, 2020

Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you and your families in good health during these trying times. Significant changes are taking place hourly as our nation and local agencies navigate these unprecedented times. Local Union 241 in conjunction with the IBEW and NECA are taking our members, staff, contractors' and everyone's families health and safety very seriously during this Global Pandemic.

As of March 27, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered all nonessential construction work to shut down statewide during the coronavirus pandemic. Essential construction work has been identified as roads, bridges, transit facilities, utilities, hospitals or health care facilities, affordable housing and homeless shelters. As a result of this new order, many IBEW jobs have been shut down. During this difficult time I want to reassure you that we are continuously monitoring the situation in an attempt to keep our members informed and to get everyone back to work as soon as it is safe for both our members and the community to do so.

During this pandemic, I want all our members to know that despite being off from work, your benefits will continue to be paid by the Union. The IBEW and NECA have agreed to a national disease emergency response that has impacts on our members and employers. This agreement will allow workers to return to the same job you were at before any lay off in response to COVID-19. It has also waived the typical waiting week for unemployment insurance even if previous unemployment claims have been exhausted. You will get this benefit until the Executive Order is lifted and the crisis is over. In addition, new legislation passed in New York has allowed emergency Paid Sick Leave for those mandated to quarantine because of COVID-19, with the amount of days paid by the employer depending on company size. This may also be supplemented by NYS Paid Family Leave and Disability as well. If you have to care for a family member who has COVID-19 or who is quarantined or isolated, you are also eligible for NYS Paid Family Leave. If your jobsite has closed due to COVID-19 and you are temporarily laid off, you are eligible to file for unemployment and keep your medical coverage intact.

For information on NYS Paid Family Leave Benefits call toll free 1-(844) 337-6303 or visit their website at: www.paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/covid

If you need to be tested visit health.ny.gov/coronavirus

For NYS Unemployment Insurance Benefits call toll free 1- (888) 581-5812 or visit their website at: www.labor.ny.gov/signin

JATC Training Director Dale Aumick will be addressing the Instructors and Apprentices on future coursework

In addition to these measures taken by the IBEW and NECA to ensure your safety at this time, please keep up to date on federal and state mandates or information on relief packages at coronavirus.health.ny.gov and usa.gov/coronavirus.

Although our office is currently closed to the public until further notice the IBEW 241 Office will remain staffed in order to assist members by phone or email at this time. We will also establish a secure drop box at the front door for members to securely drop off documents they may wish not to email, fax or mail. Please give us a call at (607) 272-2809 or reach us by email at ibew241@cnymail.com with any questions or concerns. I can also be reached on my cell at (607) 423-2809.

Please keep yourselves and your families safe and thank you for keeping our union strong during this difficult time.

Fraternally,



Todd Bruer
Business Manager
IBEW 241

Helpful Resources:

ibewlocal241.com: Additional links and resources can be found on the locals website in addition to the most up to date and important messages from the office.

[Cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus): Official COVID-19 health information

[Coronavirus.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/coronavirus): Latest official information from COVID-19 Task Force at the White House

[Coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://www.health.ny.gov/coronavirus): Latest coronavirus information, resources and guidance

[Fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control): Answers to COVID-19 myths and rumors

[Labor.ny.gov](https://www.labor.ny.gov): Unemployment resources

[Nabtu.org/covid-19-resources](https://www.nabtu.org/covid-19-resources): National Building Trades Resources and Updated

[Nycclc.org/news/2020-03/covid-19-pandemic-resources](https://www.nyccllc.org/news/2020-03/covid-19-pandemic-resources): COVID-19 Pandemic Resources with state and federal level policy information

[Nysaflcio.org/COVID19](https://www.nysaflcio.org/COVID19): COVID-19 Resources for Working People by AFL-CIO

[Tompkinscountyny.gov/health](https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health): Latest public health information for Tompkins County with up to date case tracking and health advisory updates

[Usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus): Expansive list of links to reliable website for information on health and safety, travel, transportation, taxes, education, fraud, benefits, grants, housing, voting, national parks, communications, business, cybersecurity, and more