



# CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

## COVID-19

(UPDATE 3-12-2020)

Dear Members,

The emergence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as an international public health pandemic is of the utmost concern to us because it impacts the potential health, safety and livelihoods of our members.

As this virus spreads, so too has uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Many of you have already reached out to our staff with general and specific individual concerns. Our leadership is constantly staying abreast of developments as things evolve. We urge you to seek reliable and trustworthy information from authoritative sources, such as the Centers for Disease and Control prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) and the World Health Organization [www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](http://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus). On local levels, both Los Angeles and New York have declared state of emergencies. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health maintains a dedicated Coronavirus website, [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/) and in New York City, [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page).

Plenty of information has been disseminated about precautions one should take to limit the potential of exposure to the virus, and that information can be found on the links provided above.

We are aware of a couple of productions that have been shut down due to the positive testing of at least one crew member. It seems inevitable there will be more. This, of course, raises additional concerns for all of us, including a loss of income and a lack of adequate sick pay if members become ill and must stay home. The IATSE has assured us they are in regular contact with the major producers to ensure they are taking appropriate action to protect the health and safety of IA members. To that end, we have been provided with policies pertaining to the Coronavirus from various studios, along with the safety contacts at the studios. All of that information can be found at [www.editorsguild.com/Coronavirus-Information](http://www.editorsguild.com/Coronavirus-Information). Also included is information from the Motion Picture Industry Health and Pension Plan.

If you believe you are in harm's way due to any potential exposure at your work site, please report it immediately to the appropriate safety department. If you are not satisfied with the results, please reach out to a Field Representative. We recognize many of you don't work within a studio environment.

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Keep updated with information pertaining to the coronavirus:  
[www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information](http://www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information)



So if you are not certain about who you should contact, again, I urge you to reach out to a Field Representative for assistance.

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While the primary focus at this time centers around health and safety concerns, we realize if more productions shut down, this can have an impact on your financial livelihoods and your ability to maintain enough hours to continue to qualify for health coverage through the MPI Health Plan. I am not aware of any contingency plans at the moment, but if the virus continues to spread at escalated rates, we will certainly advocate for appropriate remedies. All of the information we are receiving in the LA area filters through the IATSE West Coast office. In the Eastern region, Paul Moore is in touch with the major IA production locals in Atlanta, New Orleans and New York because the information filters directly through them. We will update you right away as any new information is passed along.

In order to exercise responsible precaution, President Alan Heim and I have decided to cancel all group events, seminars, and screenings throughout the end of this month and we will re-evaluate the scheduling of these types of events on an ongoing basis.

Lastly, the health of you and your loved ones are of primary concern to us. While we all attempt to weather this storm and make the best of this challenging situation, please let us know if there is anything you think we can do to help ease the impact. It is my sincere hope you all remain healthy.

Meanwhile, we will continue our efforts to keep you informed.

Take good care.

In Solidarity,

Cathy Repola

National Executive Director