



State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition Statement – 3.20.20

The Coalition continues to have strong concerns about both the protection of state workers performing essential services on the job and the implementation at an agency level of the Governor’s directives and statements that those workers who can work at home be allowed to do so, and “only the essential people go to work as needed.” OPM/DAS guidance has failed in a number of important ways to capture those principles fully. While some agencies have responded quickly and constructively to both issues, others have lagged behind and resisted changes that would protect the public and state employees.

The Coalition calls upon the Administration to immediately implement the following requirements:

- No worker should be at the workplace during the crisis unless the work is
 - Essential to be performed during the crisis; **and**
 - Essential to be performed at the workplace
- Those workers who must be in the workplace must receive the greatest possible safety protections for themselves, their family, and the public.
- All other workers should be at home, their pay should be continued, and they should be performing whatever part of their work is possible and appropriate to be performed at home.
- Priority should be given to public services that
 - Protect the public from spread
 - Meet essential needs, and
 - Prevent harm that could be caused by service disruptions

The State should be a role model and use all means at its disposal to encourage other employers in the public sector, municipal and Board of Education, and private sector to do right by their workforce and their communities.