



COVID-19 UPDATE

Following the directions of the Ontario Government regarding essential services and places of work, we have had to close our Local 83 office at 36 Antares Drive. This came into effect on March 24 at 23:59.

Despite the fact that the office is temporarily closed, we are still working for you and can be reached by telephone, 613-731-1314 or email listed below.

It has come to our attention that reusable face masks are being made with cotton fabric and offered to health care providers. The effectiveness of these masks is unproven and may put you at greater risk, so **please respectfully decline the offer** and continue to use approved PPE only. Issues around PPE and what is appropriate use continue to come up.

The newly **revised policy decision providing 2 mask/person/shift** came down yesterday.

This policy does not affect the directive regarding the use of PPE when caring for COVID-19 patients, or any other patient requiring isolation precautions of any sort. Staff is required to wear surgical masks for all routine patient contact. The 2 mask limit is inappropriate. If you need more masks to safely complete your patient care and are denied access to additional masks, please let me know.

ONA's position has not changed and remains the precautionary principle. ONA continues to reinforce this with all levels of Government.

If you are being denied the N95 mask or are being shamed or intimidated into not using them, here is what you need to do:

- Take out a pen and paper and in front of the person denying you the PPE you are requesting you are to say
- am documenting what you have just said to me (do it as you are speaking) and I am presenting it to my JHSC (Joint Health and Safety Committee) Rep and my Bargaining Unit President because at this moment I feel threatened and unsafe in my workplace and because I believe that my assessment skills tell me I need N95 protection in this situation".
- Contact your ONA site VP and Bargaining Unit President. They will put you in touch with a JHSC rep.
- Complete an SLS and if necessary, a respectful behavior complaint.

Should you need it your ONA executive and JHSC reps have the information you may need to help you individually refuse unsafe work as part of the Ontario Health and Safety Act.

Contact them **immediately** if you are refusing unsafe work.

Redeployment

If you are redeployed or if your posted schedule is changed, it is our position that scheduling premiums and overtime provisions still apply. Let us know if this is not the case.

Contact information:

- Local 83 email: onalocal83@onalocal83.org
- Local 83 Bargaining Unit President: Rachel Muir local83@ona.org
- Civic Campus Site VP: Andrea Waddell 83civicvp@ona.org
- General Campus/Rehab Site VP: Rose O'Neill 83genvp@ona.org
- Riverside Campus Site VP: Bonnie Taylor 83rivsitevp@ona.org
- Heart Institute VP: Sandy McEwen 83heartvp@ona.org
- Local 83 Bargaining Unit Vice President: local83vicebup@ona.org

Continue to be all that you are, strong, educated, caring people who are continuing to fight for the health and welfare of the people of Ontario and know that while you do that we will continue to fight for your health and welfare.

You are what makes our health care system great, Thank you.

Your Local Bargaining Unit President,
Rachel Muir RN