

LOCAL 721



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, CTW, CLC

January 7, 2022

To: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

From: David Green, President, SEIU Local 721

Subject: Omicron Surge – Safeguard Your Workers and the Public

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Today, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported a record-breaking 37,215 new cases of coronavirus, bringing the total of new cases since the first of the year to nearly 174,000. Since Christmas there has been a 430% increase in the number of cases over the previous two-week period. Yesterday, over 8,600 COVID-positive Californians were hospitalized.

The crushing spike of COVID cases has created an unprecedented demand for safety net services, as private hospitals have once again been forced to turn away patients due to overwhelming capacity issues. Public health officials do not predict the climb in positive cases will decline in the month of January.

In light of this staggering surge, and on behalf of the 55,000 members of SEIU Local 721 who serve the people of Los Angeles County, we call on you to take steps to ensure the health and safety of your workers, and treat fairly those who have contracted the coronavirus:

- **Reissue an emergency telework directive** to County Department Heads aimed at maximizing the number of County employees who can work remotely, thereby reducing their own risk and the risk they might pose to others.
- Until the state of California acts to extend Supplemental Paid Sick Leave, direct County departments to **offer accommodations to employees who are complying with mandatory quarantines**. Allow employees to telework during a required quarantine, rather than utilize regular sick leave or suffer loss of pay. If remote work is not feasible, place quarantining employees on paid administrative leave.

We believe that these are appropriate responses to the facts on the ground reported by our Department of Public Health, and we count on you to give them your serious consideration.

In Unity,

David Green, President
SEIU Local 721

cc: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer

<http://www.seiu721.org>