



# Local 195

## International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOMINICK D. CRITELLI 1977-2006

Donald J. Buchanan, President Emeritus



TO: Local 195 Executive Board

DATE: April 29, 2020

RE: Implementation of Universal COVID-19 Testing

Attached please find a letter from the Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The Division has begun implementing the universal COVID-19 testing for the Developmental Center staff and residents using the collection of saliva.

This testing may soon be implemented throughout other state departments. Please share this information with your chapter members.

Fraternally,

Timothy J. Rudolph,  
President, Local 195, IFPTE

TJR/cac  
TR20/stlteb042920  
Attach/DHSletter

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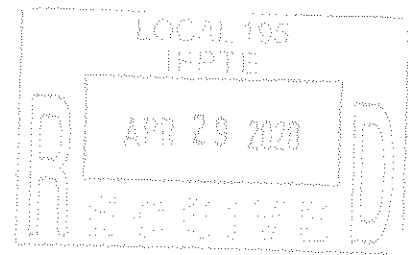
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OPEIU/32  
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**Division of Developmental Disabilities**

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**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
Lt. Governor

**JONATHAN SEIFRIED**  
Assistant Commissioner

April 20, 2020

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to share some important news about our Center's response to COVID-19. As you may have heard, the Division is implementing universal COVID-19 testing for Developmental Center staff and residents. Starting today, we will be administering a test developed by Rutgers University and recently given emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration. This new test is faster and easier to perform than existing nasal swab tests because it only requires the collection of saliva from a person's mouth.

This test will generally be administered at either the beginning or end of your shift. The Center anticipates testing all staff and residents at some point over the next week, with results expected within a few days. The sample will be used for no other purpose than testing for COVID-19. Results will be securely transmitted to the Center from the testing laboratory and staff will be notified of their results as soon as possible.

In addition to the material available at the time of the test, you can read more about this specific test here: <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/new-rutgers-saliva-test-coronavirus-gets-fda-approval>

We are testing all staff and residents because public health officials are increasingly concerned about COVID-19 transmission by individuals who do not have symptoms. Universal testing may cause an increase in the positive results reported at the Center. This knowledge will enable us to take well informed action to continue to support residents and staff.

Please know we are doing everything we can to prioritize the health and well-being of Center residents and staff, and we are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

[NAME], [TITLE]