

May 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Province of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Minister Christine Elliot
Ministry of Health
438 University Ave, 8th floor,
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliot:

Re: Pandemic Pay for Laboratory and Medical Professionals

We understand that late yesterday, the Minister of Health reportedly expanded the list of eligible healthcare workers who will receive pandemic pay.

We are extremely disappointed that Laboratory and Medical Technicians and Technologists and other allied health workers were not on the expanded list. Again, the list of eligible workers appears to exclude many essential frontline healthcare workers including Laboratory Staff, Phlebotomists, Sonographers, Cardiac and Diagnostic Imaging Technicians and Technologists, and other allied health workers.

These are the important frontline workers detecting and preventing the spread of COVID-19 and treating those with the virus. All of them are putting their own lives on the line to care for others and protect the public.

LiUNA Local 3000 represents over 400 Allied Health Professionals and front-line staff in the Diagnostic Laboratories, Women's Health Clinic, Occupational Health Clinic, Heart and Vascular Laboratories, and Sleep Laboratories at Unity Health Toronto. They include:

- Phlebotomists, who draw blood samples from COVID and non-COVID patients
- Laboratory technicians and technologists, who test for COVID-19 and process and analyze samples from patients

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- Sonographers and other medical imaging technologists, who perform diagnostic imaging on COVID and non-COVID patients
- Cardiac technicians and technologists, working in the Cardiac Cath Lab, ECG, and cardiac device implant labs
- Other technicians and technologists working in various hospital departments, screening staff and patients for COVID-19 and assisting in the pandemic fight in every way possible

These are all critical healthcare workers on the front lines, fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the state of emergency has been declared their vacations have been cancelled, they've been redeployed and rescheduled to different departments and roles throughout the hospitals, their workload has increased astronomically and there is no end in sight. They are working in cramped, uncomfortable conditions at an incredible pace. Yet, these frontline heroes don't deserve pandemic pay?

The successful treatment of COVID-19 patients depends on their work. Without them, it would not be possible to test for COVID-19 or treat patients. Without them, the hospital could not function. Without them and similar workers throughout the province, the battle against this deadly virus could not be won.

It's unconscionable to think that the very workers that this province relies on every single day to test and report COVID-19 infections will not receive pandemic pay like the other heroes in the fight against COVID-19.

All frontline allied health workers should get the recognition and respect they so deserve. We are grateful and proud of the work that our members do to keep the citizens of this province safe. Show them that you agree. Do the right thing. Let's not leave anyone behind!

On behalf of the 8500 proud members of LIUNA Local 3000,



Ann Waller
President and Business Manager

cc. Joseph S. Mancinelli
LIUNA VP and Central and Eastern Canada Regional Manager