

## Covid Video #5

Hello, welcome to our 5<sup>th</sup> Covid video update.

We have about 200 members back to work this week – it is going very well. I do talk to St Catherines GM plant chair every day as well and they are now back to full production on 1 shift and they are also running very well, no big issues as well.

Our safety protocol is being followed – the first day back is different to get through but so far it has gone well. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> time through it is becoming routine for most.

### PHONE NUMBERS

The reps are now calling people to work during your down week. We are not leaving messages and they are not going to keep calling, they just keep moving down the list. So far the response to working has been great, many of the senior members are saying yes. We need your phone numbers, we are still getting some people we can't get ahold of.

Also we are going to be doing vacation selection. The vacation selection is going to get done fairly quickly due to circumstances. If your not at work and we can't get ahold of you, we cannot wait long, vacation will continue. It is no one's fault that vacation is this delayed, but the membership needs to be able to book their vacation as we are only just over a month away from summer shutdown.

We need your contact info.

### PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR UNIOF REPS

In Jan, GM has put a new phone system in the entire plant. As of May 1, all of the old union extensions are no longer in service. Please refer to our website for a listing of all union extensions.

### QUESTIONS

We are getting many questions each week from the video's that we do. I think 150 questions was our high water mark, plus the day to day questions that keep coming from our members.

The vast majority of the questions were very good and we hope we have answered them in one form or another. We did try our best to answer everyone's general questions, some of the specific ones people need to call us, benefits or your rep. 1 person has asked the same question every week – I am going to answer their question because I honestly think they are going to have a stroke if we don't answer him and it has been 4 weeks now that he is on the verge of having a meltdown. He is demanding to know which reps are getting paid and if any got laid off. He states it every week with many more colourful words, but they way he is going, we need to address this before he losses his mind. He won't state his name, just goes half crazy every week.

Alex Balicki and Joe Graves, myself and the 3 benefit reps were never laid off. Our contract book states those positions don't get laid off. The company also asked us to work from home as they wanted the plant clean and no one coming in to contaminate it

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Chris Wilson and myself came back 5 weeks ago to work on early planning stages of returning and getting the plant ready from a safety perspective. Joe could be found most days working at the office. Alex Balicki came back shortly after as the 11 powerhouse employees never get laid off, plus we had 7 trades working the entire time spread over 3 shifts monitoring the plant and the equipment.

Chris Wilson has been a H&S rep for 30 years, is on our joint H&S committee and is also co-chair of the GM joint H&S committee for all GM plants, and I would like to thank Chris for coming in so early and helping our plant. And as for me, 1 person has asked me every week “why the hell are you in in the plant, what makes me the Covid expert?” Im not. There is no play book on pandemic’s, im not an expert. Chris and I have done a lot of reading, had a lot meetings, talked to other plants, and have Health Canada, gov’t agencies, and the ministry of Labour as guides. And things change, continually. We are learning and let’s hope we don’t see this again in our lifetimes. And to be honest, the management team that was in here with us for the past month has done a really good job. Im aware I’m the plant chair, and I am very aware we went on strike for 5 weeks to try and pry more from GM. But right now your safety is our overriding factor and the company has done a very good job. For the past 2 months the meetings were good, they were very open, they were very receptive to all suggestions, and many of our suggestions came because of the questions our members at home sent in. The last thing either party wants is to shut our plant down. There is a time to argue, there’s a time to fight, and there is a time to set aside our differences and work together on what is most important, and that’s your safety.

Back to the reps.

The shift reps are coming back from layoff one week prior to their shift coming back. This is to allow the reps to understand everything that happened plus to start working on next week’s issues for their shift (for instance this week we have B and A shift reps in working on staffing for next week, plus vacation, etc)

C shift inplant reps will come off layoff next week, one week ahead of their shift to work with A and B reps.

Our specialty reps such as HR, EAP, Co-ordinator, Ergo, other safety reps, time study, etc all reported this week, one week ahead of the first full production week.

Most of the reps are also stuck on the CERB and in the same boat as over 500 of our members and not getting any SUB right now.

I also want to say a special thanks to the inplant reps, Mike Murphy our co-ordinator and benefit reps. We had a meeting every Monday meeting during the past 8 weeks of downtime, via phone. The inplant reps and Murphy were laid off, however every Monday at 7am, via conference calls, we went over different scenarios, proposals, etc It kept the reps up to speed on what was going on, and allowed them to get the info from benefits as the inplant reps kept getting calls from their respective zone members. The reps came up with many ideas as well that helped get us to this point.

## VACATION SCHEDULING

We need to book vacation when you get back and it will be a time crunch. We will do our best but if your not at work we will be calling you at home. Due to time constraints we cannot wait a day for people to get back to us. No issue if you answer your phones. We are also starting to call people for vacation this week.

We need to get ahead of it to try and make it work. Email or call your reps, and make sure they can get ahold of you if needed.

Next week A shift is back next week. Monday will be a bit hectic getting in but it is really not that big of a deal. We are not building trucks at 7am. You will have an orientation first. Ask questions, say hi to friends and co-workers you haven't seen in a while and just take a breath. You'll be ok.

#### **MASK DISPOSAL**

We had a new issue come up this week. The vast amount of masks that are being discarded at the end of each shift. The company will be addressing that right away and we are looking to see if we can get them recycled as well.

That's it for this week, stay safe and we will see you next week.