

SAFETY NOTICE

Covid 19 has brought us into a whole new way of living at home and work. There is a lot of fear, anxiety and of course the unknown. I want to try and clear up some misunderstandings and maybe ease some minds with this notice. I have read many of the surveys and let's just say they are very interesting. Here are some of the issues I took away from the surveys, the cleaning aspect, communication, why do we have to wear the masks, why are we still working, testing and anxiety. The following are the latest numbers:

1 Death

8 Positives (6 have returned)

11 Waiting on Tests Results

55 Confirmed Negative (These are the people who reported to HR. Health Dept. does not report negatives to the plant. Only positives)

- 1) Why are we still working? This is not a company or union choice. We are considered essential business and must run. There is a document that validates this requirement that was shared. If you would like to read it we can get you that document.
- 2) Why do we have to wear masks? And shield? This was a state mandate. An order from Governor DeWine. In order to operate a business in Ohio, all employees must wear a face covering. It must not be an N95 which is what the medical professionals wear. This order stated that if you cannot maintain 6ft of distancing you must add an additional barrier. That is the face shield. The latest update about virus spread from the CDC is that this virus is spread through respiratory droplets and that is why your nose and mouth must be covered. The company offered you 3 different styles however there are many different masks out there that you can purchase. Meijer had some that were nice and reasonably priced. Amazon also have many styles to choose from. Per contract you can't wear any mask that has political or religious statement. You cannot bring your own shield. Only company issued shields are acceptable. You cannot wear respirators. Those fall under OSHA guidelines and there are several steps that must take place before you can wear those.
- 3) Why do they not tell us anything? We have a team that meets once a week on Wednesday. This team is made up of management and union leadership. We discuss everything Covid related. HR puts out a weekly letter giving numbers and the latest information on Covid. This is distributed with everyone's build sheets every morning or put in holders located at the gates and or break areas. Please read them for current information. Due to HIPPA laws NOBODY can give out personal medical information on anyone in here. You DO NOT have a right to know if your co-worker has tested positive for Covid. I personally validated this information with the Clark County Health Department. They said we are not even allowed to give out the infected persons department number. That being said, when a person calls in to HR with a positive test result the area in question will be cleaned if deemed necessary. What does that mean? Well if the person has been out for a week cleaning would not be helpful. What happens when a person tests positive? The Health Department is notified and they have a group of people who do contact

tracing. The infected person is called and asked numerous questions. 1st let's talk about what a contact is. The health department's definition of a contact is someone who you have been within 6ft of with NO face covering for more than 10 to 15 minutes. One example: Your co-worker JohnBoy has been off work sick for a few days. You and some of your co-workers get a text from JB that he has just tested positive for Covid. What does that mean for you the co-worker? When JB gets contact traced they will determine who needs to quarantine. Ask yourself this question. Were you within 6ft with no face coverings for more than 10 or 15 minutes? If the answer is no then you are not considered a contact. That is the importance of wearing all your PPE correctly every day. What if JB doesn't tell the health department about his contact with you? They will not know anything about you. Contact tracing is only as good as what the infected person says. Which leads to testing.

- 4) Why don't they test everyone here? 1st. Ed put the company on notice on day 1 that the International Union wants everyone tested. There are places that test for free around this area. You will need to google that information or contact your health department. A test is only good for the time and day you are tested. If you test negative and then get exposed that test is null and void. Also, it can take a few days for symptoms to show up after you have been exposed. If you feel you have been exposed and test day 1, you might not get symptoms until day 5. Testing has its own unique issues. As of now there is no plans to test everyone but that could always change. I can tell you that Tulsa was down for a week for cleaning. They had at least 52 people out of 1078. Thankfully we are not at that point and I hope we never are.
- 5) I have anxiety because of Covid. What can I do? We have Jeff Lynch who is our EAP Rep. There is an onsite counselor that can work with you or you can see an offsite counselor after work. To make an appointment you can see Jeff or talk with medical. Jeff Lynch's number 937-605-2763
- 6) Why don't they clean more often or do a better job? This one is tough. It is brought up every meeting. People don't see it being done or they do see it and think it could be done better. The cleaners are contract people and we as a union do not manage them. We report our concerns to the Navistar personal who manages them. I can tell you the manager from Tops sits in our meetings and hears every issue we have. Keep in mind many things are done by 2nd and or 3rd shift. Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it is not getting done. There are also two different kinds of cleaning they are doing. They are cleaning in the general sense and fogging with a disinfectant. We also have a bathroom project that is contractual going on as well. The audit has been done and as soon as the money is approved the bathrooms will be addressed. Not sure yet exactly what that looks like but more to come. Without a doubt we hear you and so does Tops. In addition, when someone presents signs or symptoms to management and or medical the alert goes out and production stops, so areas are disinfected by Tops. Keep in mind not everyone who goes to medical has Covid. People have colds, allergies, asthma and yes just the flu. There are many reasons people go to medical. The majority of people who get tested are negative. When this all started we knew that we already had an issue with cleaning here so that is why we gave you everything you need to clean your area before you start your day or anytime you feel it needs cleaned. We have a refill station at the safety office. I encourage you to clean your areas and your tools often. If you need a refill you can ask your supervisor, group leader, safety rep, or steward. Wash and sanitize your hands often. I hope this helps clear up some questions. Remember this is new to everyone. We are learning as we go. I will leave you with

some websites for more information. Stay healthy and safe. The following are informational websites

World Health Organization

www.who.int

Centers of Disease Control

www.cdc.gov

Clark County Combined Health District

www.ccchd.com

Coronavirus Ohio is another site you can access

Terri Cason,

UAW Local 402 Safety Chairman