

COVID-19 positive test protocol

The PWUA has worked with NZ Post to ensure that everyone knows what will happen at work in the event of a positive test for COVID-19, or even a suspected case. The union's intention was that no-one would be caught by surprise about what to do.

The PWUA encourages everyone to read the company's latest Safety and Wellbeing Team Brief "*Responding to Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases*" which has now been sent out to the worksites.

NZ Post and wage subsidies

NZ Post will be applying for the wage subsidy available to companies which can show a drop in revenue of at least 30% over the same month last year.

The company says teams will be briefed with the details on Wednesday 15 April. However the company will need the agreement of each worker to have their IRD number forwarded to the Ministry of Social Development.

The Union is concerned that the company had not initiated an application for a subsidy much earlier when it was clear that its revenue drop would be significant.

The union has also been concerned that as a State Owned Enterprise NZ Post may not qualify for the wage subsidy.

In principle the Union supports the company's application for the wage subsidies.

Members' concern for on calls

Posties and Mail Centre union members have expressed their concern for their on call colleagues who have lost work since COVID-19. On calls are workers who the company has relied on to be able to maintain sufficient staffing levels.

The Union has raised this concern with senior management who are considering a response to the on calls' loss of work.

10% extra for risk?

Essential workers and their family members are at extra risk from the COVID-19 virus as these workers are required to spend a large amount of time outside their household 'bubble'.

Although the PWUA has been active in ensuring that all necessary and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided, the PWUA had also written to NZ Post last month seeking a 10% pay increase in recognition of the sacrifice made by essential workers on behalf of all New Zealanders.

The union recognises that NZ Post faces a serious decline in revenue under the COVID-19 'self isolation' requirements. However the union will continue in discussions with the company about how the significantly greater risk to essential workers can be recognised in a manner that directly benefits those workers.

Walking posties can 'ride-share'

After the PWUA asked that an exemption to Alert 4 requirements be granted to walking posties, the posties can now continue to 'ride-share' out to their delivery rounds.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) had been auditing compliance with COVID-19 Alert Level 4 at Postal Delivery branches in Wellington and wanted the practice stopped where one postie drops another postie off at the beginning of those rounds distant from the Delivery Branch.

At the request of the PWUA, NZ Post was successful in getting an exemption from the Ministry of Transport to allow posties to continue with the drop-off arrangement. The postie being dropped off by another postie must sit in the left back seat, diagonally across from the driver.