

IN UNION READER



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COVID-19 RESOURCES

The coronavirus is taking its toll in Michigan and across the country. We know workers are looking for ways to continue to protect themselves and their families. Below are some resources to help you navigate these challenging times.

STAYING HEALTHY

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, call your health care provider to determine if and where you should be tested.
- You can also call the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136, 7 days a week from 8 AM – 5 PM.
- Visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus or CDC.gov/coronavirus for more information.

SUPPORTING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

- Call Crisis Connections at 866-427-4747; or
- Call Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990; or
- Text TalkWithUs to 66746.

FEEDING YOUR FAMILY

- Food Pantries and Delivery Services: To find a food bank, visit fbcnich.org or call 800-552-4483 or 211.
- Breakfast and Lunch for Students: Visit www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition

ACCESSING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- Individuals can visit Michigan.gov/UIA to apply for unemployment benefits or call 866-500-0017.
- For small businesses, visit michiganbusiness.org/covid19 for a list of resources.

EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

- Verify you are registered to vote at Michigan.gov/Vote
- All registered voters will automatically be mailed absentee ballot applications.
- Don't delay! Complete your absentee ballot application and return it by mail immediately.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, many of these organizations are overloaded and may be slower to respond. Your elected officials are here to serve you and help you get the help you need. If you're not sure who your elected representatives are or how to reach them, visit: myreps.datamade.us

Let them help you navigate the system and find the resources you need. That's what we elect them to do. That's what they are there for.

STAY IN TOUCH

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IN UNION

UNION
2020

1ST JUNE
2020
EDITION

A NEWSLETTER OF, BY, AND FOR WORKING PEOPLE

WE'RE YOUR SOURCE FOR REAL NEWS FOR REAL PEOPLE.

Welcome to *In Union*, a bi-monthly newsletter addressing the tough issues facing working people throughout Michigan and across the country. We are a reliable source for people who want news about jobs and the economy, trusted by workers and unions.

Our country is in crisis, and President Trump has shown a complete lack of leadership. In this tremendously challenging and uncertain time, we'll bring you interesting and helpful stories about working people on the front lines of this crisis, inform you about policies that are affecting workers, and provide ways to stay engaged.

From Our Home to Yours,
The *In Union* Team



OVER 1 MILLION MICHIGAN JOBS LOST: THE FACTS ON THE JOBS CRISIS

Every one of our families has been impacted by lost jobs. While some jobs are beginning to come back, the overall jobs level across the country remains in crisis.

- The U.S. economy lost 22 million jobs in March and April.
- In May, 2.5 million jobs came back, leaving us short 19.6 million jobs.
- In Michigan, we lost over 1 million jobs from February to April.
- Most people out of work due to the pandemic have been furloughed, temporarily laid off, or are currently unable to actively seek employment.

And through all of this, President Trump is missing in action, with no plan to address this crisis. This lack of leadership is deeply hurting working families.

[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 6/5/20; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 5/22/20; @hshierholz, Tweet, 6/5/20]

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE STORIES ABOUT MICHIGAN WORKERS ON THE FRONT LINES.

THE *IN UNION* UPDATE

Get caught up on the news and issues facing working people.

From the onset of the pandemic, the *In Union* team has been talking with working people across the country to hear what's on their minds. Here are the top five issues that came up in our conversations:

1

STOPPING THE VIRUS SPREAD AND PROTECTING FRONTLINE WORKERS.

At this point, all of us have been impacted by the virus. Our sisters and brothers in frontline positions are most at risk, and we need to protect them and their families.

2

EXPANDING PAID FAMILY LEAVE.

Working people need the security of knowing that they can stay home to protect their families and avoid infecting others.

3

HELPING WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS OR HAD THEIR HOURS CUT.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on working people. We need a historic investment to protect salaries and wages for working people across the country, beyond what Congress has already done.

4

PROTECTING THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Those of us with pre-existing conditions—like diabetes or heart conditions—are at the most risk. With some politicians trying to strip protections from those with pre-existing conditions, we need to make sure the most vulnerable among us are protected.

5

PREVENTING THE WEALTHY AND BIG CORPORATIONS FROM GAMING THE SYSTEM.

Millionaires and billionaires are already finding ways to take advantage of this crisis, at the expense of working people. There are serious concerns about new policies that only benefit the wealthy and well-connected.



IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS, UNIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR WORKERS. HERE'S HOW:

As America battles COVID-19, labor unions are once again leading the fight to protect workers on the front lines.



Factory workers for General Electric, members of IUE-CWA, have launched protests demanding that the company convert its factories to make medical ventilators.

[Vice, 3/30/20]



Unions like the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) have won pay raises, enhanced safety protections, and more paid sick and family leave.

[USA Today, 3/31/20; NBC DFW, 3/23/20]



Unions are working with employers across the country to provide safe working environments for frontline health care, school, and government employees who are risking their lives every day to provide vital services to the rest of us.

[SEIU.org, 3/29/20]

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

In this moment of national crisis, it's more important than ever that we stay connected and share our stories. For the most updated information, sign up at our website and check out our Facebook page:

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