

**Union** ★  
**Update**

**OPEIU**  
Local



*for OPEIU Local 8 members at Valley Medical Center*

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Bargaining**

VMC has notified all Unions representing workers at VMC including OPEIU, SEIU and IUOE of their intent to require employees to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

This is a change in your working conditions, so we are set to bargain this issue on August 2nd.

### **Here is what you need to know:**

- The COVID-19 vaccine is currently voluntary for all employees at VMC.
- No changes can be made to the current practice until the effects of this type of change has been negotiated by your Union and the Employer.
- You will be updated on any changes as we go through the bargaining process.

*If you have any questions, please contact your Union Representatives: Erin Adamson at [erin@opeiu8.org](mailto:erin@opeiu8.org) or 206-441-8880 ext. 105 or Tara Powell at [tara@opeiu8.org](mailto:tara@opeiu8.org) or 206-441-8880 ext. 106.*

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## **Know Your Rights**

### **WA State Paid Family and Medical Leave**

**You are eligible for WA State Paid Family and Medical Leave:**

- To care for yourself or a family member after a qualifying event
- If you worked 820 hours in WA over the last year
- Up to 12 weeks of paid leave, or under certain circumstances up to 18 weeks for qualifying reasons

**Important information about WA State Paid Family and Medical Leave:**

- There is a week waiting period before this benefit starts during which time you can either use accrued leave time or take the time unpaid
- You have the choice to supplement your WA Paid Family and Medical Leave time with your accrued leave time. ***You must notify the Leave Benefits Administrator if you do not want to supplement your WA Paid Leave benefits with your accrued paid time off.***

**WA State Paid Family and Medical Leave** provides the following protections:

- 90% of your weekly pay up to \$1,206 per week
- Your job is not protected under this leave at this time; however, you do have additional leave provisions provided in your Union contract.

For more information or to apply please visit <https://paidleave.wa.gov/>

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## Washington Long Term Services and Supports Trust

The WA Cares Fund is a new fund which we will all contribute while we are working, and through which we can access long-term care when we need it.

The Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Program (referred to as the “LTSS Program” or “WA Cares Fund”) is the first in the nation to develop a way to make long-term care affordable for all workers in the state as we age. Starting January 1, 2022, all Washington employee wages (those employees who work in Washington, receive wages reported on a Form W-2, and work at least 500 hours per year) are subject to a **0.58% premium assessment** (for example, \$0.58 premium assessment on every \$100 of eligible wages). Employers are required to collect premiums through employee payroll deductions and remit proceeds to the Employment Security Department (EDS). This agency will deposit funds in a trust for the individual until they qualify for the benefit.

For more information, please visit the <http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov/> website.

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## Upcoming Union Events

[Register online](#) for any of these events.

### **New Shop Steward Training *en Espanol***

Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., *via Zoom*

### **Membership Assembly**

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *via Zoom*

### **South/West Regional Meeting**

Saturday, October 23, *via Zoom*

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. *New Member Orientation*

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Organizing Virtually in the Workplace*

### **Advanced Shop Steward Training**

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., *via Zoom*

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You can also get updates and news by visiting our website at <https://www.opeiu8.org>

Visit our website



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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