

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 31/20  
Ref: COVID - 19 Update  
23/03/2020

## COVID - 19 Update - Aurizon

Dear members,

Your state office is in regular contact with Government officials in relation to transport industries continuing operation due to being deemed essential services to the public or the economy. We have also been in regular contact with Aurizon senior management providing input into strategies to keep our members safe at work as this situation unfolds.

Recent discussions have included the upgrading of cleaning and the access to cleaning products to all Traincrew. There are issues with certain locations having trouble accessing cleaning products and we have been informed that more products have been sourced and are being delivered to depots. The AFULE has secured the company approving reimbursement of cleaning products bought by traincrew for use at work in the meantime, if necessary.

As the Federal and State's Chief Medical Officers have deemed rail transport operators as essential, the designated social distancing whilst encouraged, are relaxed to ensure these services continue. Aurizon senior management have released an update including provisions for 3 persons in a cab. The AFULE has worked with the company to ensure this is limited to essential training, fault finding and regulatory requirements only. To be clear, efficiency testing with a supervisor is not essential, non-traincrew completing a "ride along" with a cab pass is not essential.

Where members are directed to undertake workings with 3 in a cab, we encourage you to have a conversation with your supervisor as to the essential necessity to have this proceed.

Members are encouraged to contact their local rep or state office if you are directed to undertake tasks that you do not deem safe or whereby adequate cleaning products are not available.

Discussions on the development of temporary permanent mates in TDO territory has also commenced to further reduce the requirement to come into contact with others whilst at work. We are currently working through this proposal with Aurizon.

As regularly published, medical professionals are encouraging a number of measures we can do in our workplaces and at home to help stop the spread of COVID -19;

1. Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
2. Regularly clean down your driving console
3. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth. And avoid shaking hands.
5. Stay home if you are unwell.
6. Avoid contact with anyone who is unwell – try to stay 1.5m away from anyone coughing or sneezing

For further information you can follow these government links;

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/coronavirus-prevention>

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-news-and-media>

Aurizon have updated their intranet outlining special leave entitlements for employees that are required to isolate or have contracted the virus. We encourage members to familiarise yourselves with these updates and leave provisions.

Aurizon have also established an external medical contact hotline for employees to call and discuss your health or potential health risks associated with COVID 19. We are content that this is a true external provider and that your confidentiality when using this number will be secured. Traincrew can access this service on 1800-983-006.

This week, meetings with QLD government officials and senior Aurizon management are continuing. If you have any questions or concerns you would like raised at these high level meetings, you are encouraged to email [statesecretary@afule.org.au](mailto:statesecretary@afule.org.au) and we will endeavour to raise these concerns.

As the government have deemed you as essential workers, your state office will also continue to operate as normal to be available to our members when necessary.

We will ensure to produce regular updates as more information comes to hand.

Please contact your state office on 3844 9163 or [statesecretary@afule.org.au](mailto:statesecretary@afule.org.au) if you would like further information.

In Solidarity,



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Michael McKittrick  
State Secretary