

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 29/20
Ref: COVID - 19 Update
17/03/202



COVID - 19 Update

Dear members,

As you are all aware, the World Health Organisation has declared the COVID-19 virus a global pandemic. We are in uncharted territory and warning updates are coming at an alarmingly increased rate. Although this is concerning, authorities are reminding us to stay calm.

The AFULE has been in discussions with rail operators and government officials working to ensure the best outcomes for our members to keep them and their families safe.

Rail operators have commenced releasing communication documents to employees along with initial planning strategies to minimise the risks. The AFULE is working with rail operators and providing input into these plans. As a first step, companies have now committed to an increased cleaning regime of all cabs.

A main concern we are receiving from members is what happens if they are forced to self-isolate? The AFULE is working with operators to secure special or pandemic leave for members where the need arises. This is still being worked through, however, we hope to have clear policies developed with all rail companies by the end of this week.

There are a number of things 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>

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

We will ensure to keep you updated as more information comes to hand.

Please contact your state office on 3844 9163 or statesecretary@afule.org.au if you would like further information.

In Solidarity,



Michael McKitrick AFULE State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew