

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 32/20
Ref: COVID - 19 Update
23/03/2020

COVID - 19 Update - Citytrain

Dear members,

The AFULE has been and will continue to be in regular contact with QR management. We will be having daily discussions about the fast changing Covid-19 landscape with your Divisional Councillor, Anthony Woodward. We will also ensure that your local reps have regular communications from your State Office letting them know of any changes or developments.

Your safety

I know this is an uncertain time for Traincrew. You are doing an important job for our state helping our doctors and nurses, teachers and other essential workers carry on keeping the people in the state of Queensland safe in this emergency and helping the economy to keep turning. Your safety is our priority, as your State Secretary it's my job to protect AFULE members and at this time, it's our job as a union of employees to stand shoulder to shoulder and do our bit to help Queensland continue to be a safe, stable and productive state.

Current advice is to keep contact with any single member of the public below 15 minutes. If you are being exposed to members of the public in proximities that do not respect social distancing for more than a casual period of time, I want you to call our office immediately. This puts you at a much higher than acceptable risk to your health and safety and our union will not tolerate it.

You must ensure you keep to the social distancing rules where possible, although public transport is exempt from the new indoor 4m square rule, keep your hands sanitised and do not touch your face.

Follow [this link](#) for more information on how Covid_19 spreads - and [this link](#) in relation to how safe you are after casual (15 minutes or less) contact with a person who is carrying Covid_19)

I will be asking QR to introduce temperature monitoring of drivers and guards to risk manage times when traincrew have to be in a cab together. I am confident at this time that drivers are safe in their cabs as long as they maintain good hygiene and the controls and cab spaces are regularly sanitised. Do not linger on platforms. I will let you know immediately if anything happens to shake that confidence.

Guards must take care of themselves when assisting passengers to board. Keep contact to a minimum, make sure any equipment is sanitised regularly by the company and do not linger on the platform for longer than necessary. If you have any concerns, I want you to contact us so we can make sure your safety is a priority and keep you protected. Do not accept situations where you feel uncomfortable, challenge them, put your safety first. I will be putting it first and I will let you know immediately if there is anything that causes me to feel concern for your safety.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

Your work and leave arrangements

If you follow [this link](#) you will find the work and leave arrangements that have been provided to us by QR CEO Nick Easy. If you have been asked to stay at home but are willing to work, you will be paid as though you were at work if you cannot work remotely or work from another location.

Today we have raised a number of issues via email with Queensland Rail's CHRO, Rebecca Munn. Rebecca hasn't replied to us as yet but we have also spoken to Neil Backer, GM Train Services Delivery and Acting TSD Manager, Brett Garrigan, today and had excellent and timely responses from them and undertakings to get back to us with answers to our remaining questions.

Updates from what we've asked the company

We have the following updates for you:

1. QR are increasing the sanitisation of units and in some cases doubling the number of times they are cleaned.
2. Notify control if you require a short amount of additional time at change over to wash your hands or personally sanitise your cab.
3. Station staff will be clean down the controls in cabs which are stationary at change points.

We are waiting to hear whether the company will continue running passenger services to the international airport or stop running them but continue utilising that track to turn locked units around.

We have raised issues in relation to the continuation of non-essential training requiring more than one person in a cab.

We have also asked for information in relation to what chemicals are being used to clean the cabs and what the hazmat directions are regarding them.

Our working conditions are changing at a fast pace and we are trying to keep you updated. We are committed to keeping you informed and raising your issues with the company. We expect further answers to the questions we have tomorrow.

If you have any concerns you'd like us to raise about any of the above please send them to statesecretary@afule.org.au

In Solidarity,



Michael McKittrick
State Secretary