

NOVEMBER 11TH, 2021

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER



DBM Announces New Inadequate EPSL Program After AFSCME Members Organizing

Members on the frontline continue to risk exposure to COVID-19 simply by reporting to work. As the pandemic began and using federal funding, all employees were granted access to Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) to be used when exposed and prevent employees from depleting their own leave because of the risk assumed simply by reporting to work. AFSCME fought for a continuation of this policy and won an extension until June this year. When this program expired in June, the Hogan administration declined to negotiate further despite the continued spread of COVID-19 and significant remaining federal funding.

Despite our repeated attempts to negotiate a better and more comprehensive policy, yesterday DBM announced a new and limited EPSL program. Beginning on November 3, 2021, through December 31, 2021, vaccinated employees or those with valid vaccine exemptions who test positive for COVID-19 using a PCR (non-rapid) test are eligible for up to 10 days (no more than 80 hours) of COVID-19 leave to use in place of an employee's own leave or leave without pay to recover from COVID-19.

Read more on our website: www.afscmemd.org

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SUPPORT COUNCIL 3 COVID-19 HEROES WHO SUPPORT MARYLAND EVERYDAY

"During the pandemic, I became a single mother due to senseless violence in the State of Maryland. With my current income as well as the cost of everything increased in the state of Maryland, it has become extremely hard to provide for them and save for College as well as other things in life.

I am asking the Legislature to do what Governor Hogan will not do for state employees and fund annual COLA's and steps."



Take the Pledge to Stand with Council 3 COVID-19 Heroes:

<https://bit.ly/AFSCME3Pledge>

AFSCME Secures One Day Guaranteed Telework For Job Services Specialists

AFSCME Local 3641 has been working hard to negotiate a fair telework policy. Local 3641 represents all staff at the Department of Labor from Garrett County to the Eastern Shore. Telework has been one of the main concerns our members have raised since the pandemic began and the workload became overwhelming. Members in the job services specialist classification came together and signed a petition and turned it into management demanding a fair policy.

When our union fights, we win! Now, we have guaranteed one day of telework for all Job Services Specialists and secured a new telework agreement. We will continue to organize for better working conditions for all of our members and build power in the workplace.

Our greatest strength comes from working together. We encourage all DOL staff and all frontline office staff to get involved and take action to build power for workers across Maryland!
