



**UNITED ASSOCIATION**  
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the  
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry  
of the United States and Canada  
**LOCAL UNION No. 13**

1850 MT. READ BLVD. • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14615 • TEL: (585) 338-2360

FAX: (585) 544-0600

EMAIL: [office@ualocal13.org](mailto:office@ualocal13.org)

WEBSITE: [www.ualocal13.org](http://www.ualocal13.org)

**May 7, 2020**

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

**As we navigate through another difficult week of uncertainty, we want you to know we are here for you during these trying times. If there is anything that we can assist you with, please do not hesitate to call me at the office 585-338-2360 Ext. 114, my cell phone is 585-766-1199, and my email is [billk@ualocal13.org](mailto:billk@ualocal13.org).**

**New information is in yellow.**

**Currently we have 82 brothers and sisters out of work, 12 traveling and 42 of those out of work are because of Covid-19. Either volunteered for a lay-off, in quarantine, or because of a jobsite shut down.**

**On a good note: Hours worked January 1 – March 31, 2020 = 316,855. Hours worked Jan 1, 2019 – March 31, 2019 = 315,879. Hours worked for the month of March 2020 = 101,223. Hours worked for the month of March 2019 = 102,734. Trending a little less than last March, but year to date is up. With all that is going on with this epidemic this is outstanding news. I will continue to keep you posted. We do look like hours will continue to trend upward as work does look very good through the summer months.**

**Time will tell on all the upcoming projects. For ex. The U of R and Strong hospital expansion, Blue Cross Arena upgrades, Rochester Convention Center and Roc the Riverway etc. The Rochester Building Trades will be in continued contact with our Politicians to keep up on our funding. We will have to see how NY State comes out of this epidemic financially to see where the States budget will end up.**

**As you can see, we are moving in the right direction getting our brothers and sisters back to work. Our late spring and summer months look outstanding for full employment. Please remember that if you choose not to take a back to work call a contractor may deny your unemployment.**

*If you do not feel comfortable taking a back to work call, please communicate this with me. I do understand and will do all I can to help. If you are on a job site and you do not feel comfortable with being their please communicate with me, your foreman and contractor. They do understand and will help you regarding a temporary lay-off if needed. If you do get push back with talking to your contractor, please let me know and I will help you and discuss your anxiety with you and the contractor.*

**New attached information this week:**

- 📌 Covid-19 Construction Guidance for the Construction Workforce.**
- 📌 Get tested.**
- 📌 Gov. Cuomo announcements.**
- 📌 How Plumbers Can Stay Safe During Covid-19.**
- 📌 "PUTTING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS BACK TO WORK IS ESSENTIAL. BUT NOTHING IS MORE ESSENTIAL THAN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL THE BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES."**

**Highly important repeated information – Please refer to past text attachments:**

- 📌 Covid-19 Keeping you and your family safe.**
- 📌 Practices for jobsites.**
- 📌 How to file for unemployment.**
- 📌 Family first Covid-19 Response Act.**
- 📌 Guidelines on PPE.**

**Friendly reminders:**

**Unfortunately, we had to cancel our annual picnic at Seabreeze and our annual apprentice graduation and years of service pins banquet. We will be sending letters out to all those who have graduated into full rate journeyman, all the scholarship \$ recipients and all those receiving years of service pins congratulating them on their outstanding accomplishment. We will plan on doubling up and honor all those who missed out this year at next year's picnic and banquet. We are still hopeful that we may be able to hold our annual Clam Bake. We will keep you posted as we move through the pandemic on any cancellations.**

Union meetings are cancelled through July. I am very hopeful that if we can relax some of the social distancing protocol and we will be able to have a meeting in August. Although, until they come up with a vaccine our meetings will have a different look with chairs six feet apart, masks will have to be worn and unfortunately, we will not be able to have any food brought in. If we can hold a regular union meeting in August, we will send out notification in July.

Please keep checking your text messages for important information from Local 13 as I will keep you updated weekly through those texts until we can have our monthly union meetings. If you have any questions on our finances, our market recovery funds and the good and welfare of Local 13 please call me and I will be more than happy to pass on that information.

Thank you! for your cooperation and please call me, text me or email me if you need anything. I appreciate all your efforts and understanding as we move through these ever-changing times.

I want to thank everyone for understanding, being proactive and doing all you can to keep your brothers and sisters and your families safe. Your understanding of the temporary loss of shift differential will not be forgotten. When we get through this epidemic, we will be, stronger, and more united than ever. Our contractors know of the sacrifices we are making to keep our job sites open. When we can meet again as a conference board, I am confident that we will be able to be more progressive with our shift differential and CBA. I look forward to when we all can meet again for our monthly union meetings. Thank you again for being united and understanding.

To our retirees, please stay safe and healthy. We are here for you and your pension checks will be coming as usual without delay. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and I am always available for your calls as well. I look forward when you can meet again for your monthly retiree lunches.

In closing, we are facing a difficult opponent. It will take solidarity, teamwork, discipline, and commitment to do the right things all the time.

There are plenty of things we cannot do right now but let us focus on what we can do. We can adapt. We can adjust. And we can make better decisions right now for the betterment of our future. We are selflessly and courageously doing

our jobs for the health and safety of the nation. Let us keep stringing good days together, and we will get through this better, stronger, and more united than ever before.

**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**

**PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING...**

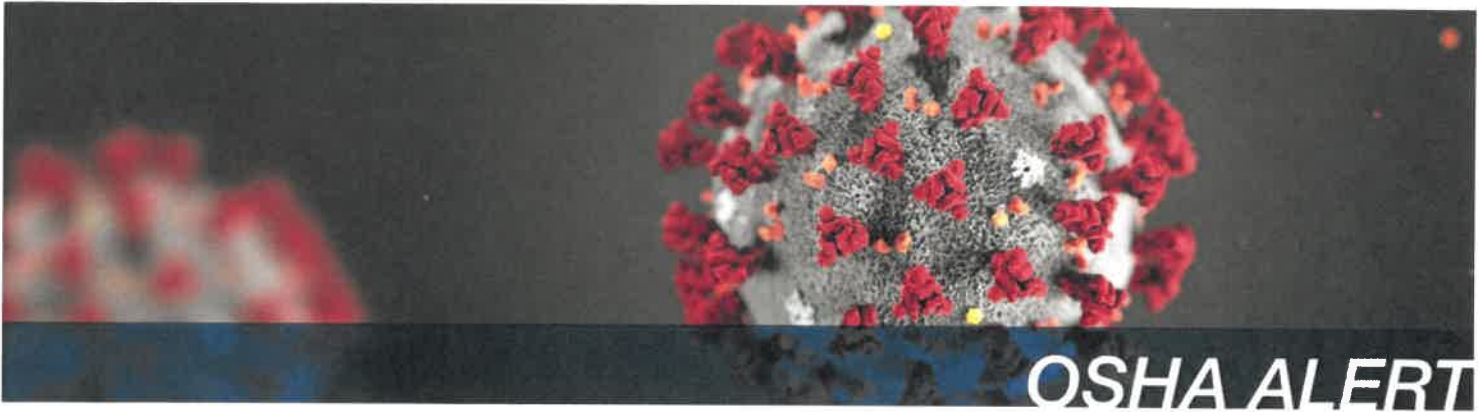
*In solidarity,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Kurtz', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**William Kurtz**

**Business Manager**





## COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

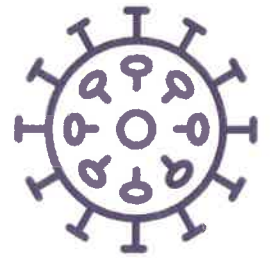
When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and take off protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#) or that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](http://www.osha.gov/coronavirus) or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

*OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to  
worker safety and health issues and solutions.*

# Get Tested



Essential Workers in New York State can make an appointment to be tested at one of our drive through or walk in testing sites by calling the COVID-19 Hotline at **1-888-364-3065** or online at **[covid19screening.health.ny.gov](https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov)**

Testing Sites located in Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Kings, Richmond, Bronx, New York, Westchester, Rockland, Albany, Broome, Oneida, **Monroe**, Erie and Niagara Counties

Individuals who are employed as health care workers, first responders, or in any position within a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care setting, including but not limited to:

- Correction/Parole/Probation Officers
- Direct Care Providers
- Firefighters
- Health Care Practitioners, Professionals, Aides, and Support Staff (e.g. Physicians, Nurses, Public Health Personnel)
- Medical Specialists
- Nutritionists and Dietitians
- Occupational/Physical/Recreational/Speech Therapists
- Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Police Officers
- Psychologists/Psychiatrists
- Residential Care Program Managers

Individuals who are employed as essential employees who directly interact with the public while working, including but not limited to:

- Animal Care Workers (e.g. Veterinarians)
- Automotive Service and Repair Workers
- Bank Tellers and Workers
- Building Code Enforcement Officers
- Child Care Workers
- Client-Facing Case Managers and Coordinators
- Counselors (e.g. Mental Health, Addiction, Youth, Vocational, Crisis, etc.)
- Delivery Workers
- Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- **Essential Construction Workers at Occupied Residences or Buildings**
- Faith-Based Leaders (e.g. Chaplains, Clergy Members)
- Field Investigators/Regulators for Health and Safety
- Food Service Workers
- Funeral Home Workers
- Hotel/Motel Workers
- Human Services Providers
- Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers
- Mail and Shipping Workers
- Maintenance and Janitorial/Cleaning Workers
- Optometrists, Opticians, and Supporting Staff
- Retail Workers at Essential Businesses (e.g. Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Convenience Stores, Gas Stations, Hardware Stores)
- Security Guards and Personnel
- Shelter Workers and Homelessness Support Staff
- Social Workers
- Teachers/Professors/Educators
- Transit Workers (e.g. Airports, Railways, Buses, and For-Hire Vehicles)
- Trash and Recycling Workers
- Utility Workers



Department  
of Health

**STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.**

**Bill Kurtz**

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**From:** esd.sm.nys-fingerlakes <nys-fingerlakes@esd.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** esd.sm.nys-fingerlakes  
**Subject:** AMID ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE FACILITIES STATEWIDE WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR



**For Immediate Release: 5/1/2020**

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**

**AMID ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE FACILITIES STATEWIDE WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

***Directs Schools and Colleges to Create Re-Opening Plans that Re-Imagine Facilities to Be Approved by the State***

***State is Partnering with Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to Provide 24/7 Emotional Support Service for Frontline Workers; Workers Can Text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741***

***Department of Financial Services to Require New York State-Regulated Health Insurers to Waive Out-of-Pocket Costs for Mental Health Services for Frontline Essential Workers***

***Announces New Targeted Efforts to Further Reduce Number of New Hospitalizations per Day***

***Five New Drive-Through Testing Facilities Now Open in Monroe, Erie, Broome, Niagara and Oneida Counties***

***Confirms 3,942 Additional Coronavirus Cases in New York State - Bringing Statewide Total to 308,314; New Cases in 48 Counties***

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced all K-12 schools and college facilities statewide will remain closed for the rest of the academic year and will continue to provide distance learning during that time. The schools will also be required to continue meal programs and child care services for essential workers. The state will make a decision about summer school programming by the end of May.

Governor Cuomo is also directing all schools and colleges to create re-opening plans that re-imagine school facilities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. These plans should consider how schools can monitor the spread of COVID-19; how to reinforce student safety; when and how to resume extracurricular activities; protocols for special student populations; steps to ensure student mental

health; alternative academic calendars; among other considerations. All plans will be reviewed and approved by the state.

The Governor also announced the state is partnering with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide a 24/7 emotional support service for frontline health care workers. Those workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access these emotional support services.

The Governor also announced that the State Department of Financial Services will require New York State-regulated health insurers to waive cost-sharing, including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, for in-network mental health services for New York's frontline essential workers during COVID-19. DFS will also issue an emergency regulation to prohibit insurers from imposing cost-sharing for telehealth and in-person mental health services rendered by in-network providers on an outpatient basis to frontline essential workers eligible to be tested at one of the State's drive through or walk in COVID-19 testing sites.

The Governor also announced new targeted efforts to further reduce the number of new hospitalizations per day, which has remained steady at approximately 1,000 over the last several days. This new effort will gather additional information and data from hospitals about the individuals who are being hospitalized for COVID-19, including if they are essential workers, where they work, how they commute, where they live and other demographics. This specific information and data from the hospitals will be used to come up with a new strategy more tailored to the reduction of new daily hospitalizations.

The Governor also announced five new drive-through testing facilities have opened and are now accepting patients in Monroe, Erie, Broome, Niagara and Oneida Counties. Residents who would like to be tested at these facilities must make an appointment by calling 888-364-3065 or online at [covid19screening.health.ny.gov](https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov). Information about the location of these new facilities is located below:

- **Niagara County:** Niagara County Community College, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132
- **Erie County:** Buffalo Sabres Lot, 125 Perry Street, Buffalo, NY 14204
- **Broome County:** Binghamton University - Event Center (Lot F/F3)
- **Monroe County:** Monroe County Community College, 1000 E Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623, Lot G
- **Oneida County:** Griffiss International Airport, 592 Hanger Road, Rome NY, 13441

"It's critical that we protect our students from this virus, and given the current circumstances we are in we do not think it is possible to put the necessary precautions in place that would allow us to re-open schools this academic year," **Governor Cuomo said.** "All schools and colleges will continue to provide distance learning, meal delivery and child care services for the remainder of the school year. And in the meantime, we want schools to start developing a plan to re-open with new protocols that incorporate everything that we are now doing in society and everything that we have learned from this pandemic. This has been a hardship on everyone, but our educators across the state have done a phenomenal job stepping up to make the best of this situation."

Finally, the Governor confirmed 3,942 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 308,314 confirmed cases in New York State. Of the 308,314 total individuals who tested positive for the virus, the geographic breakdown is as follows:



<b>County</b>	<b>Total Positive</b>	<b>New Positive</b>
Albany	1,204	39
Allegany	35	0
Broome	299	15
Cattaraugus	49	2
Cayuga	51	3
Chautauqua	35	2
Chemung	123	1
Chenango	99	1
Clinton	61	2
Columbia	202	32
Cortland	28	0
Delaware	61	0
Dutchess	3,002	48
Erie	3,481	162
Essex	28	0
Franklin	15	0
Fulton	75	4
Genesee	154	1
Greene	139	8
Hamilton	3	0
Herkimer	60	2
Jefferson	61	0
Lewis	9	0
Livingston	73	4
Madison	139	8
Monroe	1,478	37
Montgomery	54	1
Nassau	36,161	307
Niagara	440	20
NYC	169,690	2,212
Oneida	451	12
Onondaga	860	28
Ontario	91	1
Orange	8,751	101
Orleans	92	3
Oswego	64	1
Otsego	67	0
Putnam	990	20
Rensselaer	298	11
Rockland	11,812	104
Saratoga	358	4
Schenectady	514	13
Schoharie	43	1

Schuyler	7	0
Seneca	41	2
St. Lawrence	176	3
Steuben	216	0
Suffolk	34,037	373
Sullivan	880	42
Tioga	90	2
Tompkins	128	0
Ulster	1,298	19
Warren	182	6
Washington	170	22
Wayne	71	0
Westchester	29,232	262
Wyoming	68	1
Yates	18	0

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Additional news available at [www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov)  
New York State | Executive Chamber | [press.office@exec.ny.gov](mailto:press.office@exec.ny.gov) | 518.474.8418

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# How Plumbers Can Stay Safe During COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 may have put the “normal” way of life on hold, but that doesn’t mean that plumbing work – especially plumbing emergencies are on hold.

Plumbers are essential workers since we help keep homes and businesses safe and functioning. With plumbers putting themselves at risk every day, here is a list on some of the things plumbers can do to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic while doing their jobs.

## Implement “No Contact” Servicing

The folks calling to have a plumbing project taking care of (especially those in plumbing emergency situations) should be understanding and receptive to the idea of a “no contact” service.

These kinds of services can be scheduled when the initial phone call to create an appointment comes in, explaining fully to the client that you will be doing everything you can to stay away from anyone at home when you go to perform the service while requesting that they do the same.

Digital contracts can be sent and signed, payments can and should be processed over email or over the phone, and a six-foot social distancing protocol should be in place at all times.

## Maintain Social Distancing Whenever Possible

Social distancing has had a hugely positive impact on the spread of the COVID-19 virus, helping flatten the curve and giving our hospitals, first responders, and medical experts plenty of time, space, and resources necessary to focus on defeating this virus.

As a plumber, you’ll want to make sure that you are doing your best to socially distance from your customers and any people you encounter. Stay six feet away from anyone that you come in contact with and if you absolutely must try and stay away from small enclosed spaces.

## Wear Your PPE

Both the CDC and OSHA recommend wearing personal protection equipment (PPE) that includes masks and gloves whenever possible, and you want to make sure that you are wearing your PPE every single time you enter a new job.

Try to continuously switch out your working equipment like gloves and clothing after each project has been completed to reduce the chance of spreading anything to a new site.

## Wash Your Hands and Disinfect Regularly

It's obviously a good idea to wash your hands on a regular basis while combating COVID-19 as a general rule of thumb, but plumbers are going to want to make sure that they are doing so even more frequently – while making sure that they avoid touching their face as much as possible.

You also want to think about disinfecting and sanitizing your tools that you use on a regular basis. Anything that enters a new job site should be cleaned and sprayed down with disinfectant at every opportunity, ensuring that the potential for cross-contamination is minimized as much as possible.

## Ask Customers About Symptoms of COVID-19

Lastly, you should be asking customers before any job has begun if they have any symptoms. If you arrive at a job and notice that anyone within your distance is displaying symptoms, it's best to keep your health and safety in mind and consider what your options are.

Similarly you'll want to be sure that you aren't coming into work and potentially exposing anyone to COVID-19 if you exhibit any symptoms.

High fevers are just one of the signs and symptoms you want to be on the lookout for, but if you see or exhibit any other symptoms yourself you'll want to make sure you leave the area.

These are difficult times for everyone and you should try to reduce the risk of infection as much as possible. Plumbing emergencies aren't taking



a break – and plumbers aren't either – but you'll want to do everything you can to stay safe and keep others safe too.