



June 11, 2020

To ESC Medical Professionals:

The Union's work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to focus on the safety of our medical professionals and their patients. In our discussions with employers, we are advocating for work procedures that ensure proper PPE and hygiene and provide for remote work when possible to promote physical distancing.

We want to remind our members that the Union has the right to negotiate over safety issues and significant changes to work practices not covered by the collective bargaining agreement. Please be in touch with your union representative if you have any questions or concerns about what is happening (or not happening) in your workplace.

We also have the following updates:

**1. California legislation to require a six month stockpile of PPE.** Our Union is a supporter of AB 2537 (Rodriguez), which mandates that all healthcare employers maintain a six month stockpile of PPE for their work force. There is critical urgency for the legislature to act in light of the immediate COVID-19 worker safety issues due to shortfalls and rationing of appropriate PPE. In addition, such a law plainly is needed to prevent PPE shortages in next waves of COVID-19 or future public health emergencies.

[Read the full text and legislative history here.](#)  
[ESC Local 20's Letter of Support for AB 2537 is here.](#)

The bill passed out of the Assembly this past Monday by a vote of 57 ayes to 14 nos, with 8 nonvoting Assembly Members, and is moving to the Senate. We will continue to keep our members updated and likely will be calling for your action to support this bill as it moves to the Governor's desk.

**2. First meeting of ESC Local 20 Lab Professionals Committee.** The Union has convened a special working committee of lab professionals to monitor safety issues and lab practices during the pandemic. A first meeting was held last week on June 3.

COVID-19 testing has steadily ramped up, and our lab scientists are seeing new developments in testing capacity and technology in real time. To ensure that we are working with the best possible information from the field, this Committee has representation from lab professionals from all of our employers (Kaiser, Sutter, Dignity, and all public sector and hospital district labs). We expect that the Lab Committee will convene monthly, and members will also be available as needed to consult about any emerging issues.

**Clinical Lab Scientists and Medical Lab Technologists: We want to hear from you.**

[Please take this 5 minute survey](#) to tell us about your Lab and COVID-19 by June 29th. Individual answers will only be used within the Union to help us better understand possible issues around COVID-19 testing and identify successful practices we can use as models.

Thank you again for all of your critical work.

In solidarity,

Michael Aidan, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Union Representative  
[maidan@ifpte20.org](mailto:maidan@ifpte20.org)

Nick Steinmeier, Senior Union Representative  
[nsteinmeier@ifpte20.org](mailto:nsteinmeier@ifpte20.org)

---

Like us on [Facebook](#)!

Engineers and Scientists of California, Local 20 IFPTE  
[ifpte20.org](http://ifpte20.org) | [joinlocal20.org](http://joinlocal20.org)

---

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](http://ActionNetwork.org).