

December GMM Report – Arghyadeep Sarkar, Health and Safety Officer

This year has been pretty gloomy for most of us due to COVID-19 outbreak. Even though we had the virus little bit under control in the previous few months here in Canada, but we are in midst of 2nd wave of this pandemic. Hamilton is now marked in Covid red zone as of 16th November. Hopefully, we can all get vaccinated soon in the near future. The University has laid out a clear plan in terms of research labs operation with proper social distancing protocol being maintained. For more detail knowledge, please visit (<https://hr.mcmaster.ca/resources/covid19/workplace-health-and-safety-guidance-during-covid-19/>)for more info. The members who require experimental research are being only being allowed and that too self-voluntarily. However, if certain members are still being enforced to work under these extremely difficult circumstances without proper personal protective equipment, please do contact us. We, as a union rep are ready to help to the best of our capacity. If any members would like to come forward and request any health and safety concern, the union would be happy to assist in that process. Any members experiencing problems of this nature are encouraged to send an email to healthandsafety@cupe3906.org and share their stories.

I have attended monthly meetings of the Central Joint Health and Safety Committee (CJHSC) over the last few months. Covid-19 issues has been discussed extensively. Through these meetings we as a union can advocate our health and safety concerns on behalf of our union workers with me being the representative of the union. One of issues we face is that there is lack of effective representation on each of the Joint Health and Safety Committees across various buildings and departments in the campus. According to our records (dated July' 20), the following Joint Health and Safety Committees are without CUPE 3906 representatives: DeGroot (Units 3), Engineering (Unit 2 and Unit 3), Ivor Wynne/David Braley (Units 2 and 3), Libraries and Museum of Art (Units 1, 2, and 3), McIARS (Units 1, 2, and 3), Science (Unit 2). If you like to be in one of the committees, please put up your nomination. We will hold elections to fill up these positions. Lastly, some of COVID-19 protocols have been laid out by the University recently. They are as follows-

1. **Do the online training:** The mandatory COVID-19 Awareness training is available in Mosaic. Training must be completed once in advance of coming to campus.
2. **Wear a mask:** Masks are mandatory for all indoor spaces on campus.
3. **Follow signs and keep physically distanced:** Clear, easy to read signage throughout campus signals appropriate physical distancing and room capacities.
4. **Use the COVID-19 reporting tool:** If you or anyone on your team has tested positive for COVID, has symptoms, or has come into contact with a confirmed case of COVID, use the tool in Mosaic to help McMaster take appropriate safety actions.