

As members working on the front lines of our prison system, forensic and psychiatric centers, field hospitals erected on OPWDD campuses, and many other essential locations, we are asked to perform dangerous jobs in dangerous conditions every single day. With the advent of the Coronavirus, we face unprecedented and unseen dangers not only to ourselves, but to our families as well. We want to assure you that your union has been in front of this pandemic from our first knowledge of how transmissible it is.

Below you will find a summary of NYSCOPBA's efforts and subsequent resolution. Please note that this summary does not encapsulate all of the work being done on your behalf, including the hundreds of emails and phone calls made by the Executive Board, law firm, public relations team, Health and Safety/Workers Comp Specialist, and lobby team each and every day to accomplish every win — big or small. More detailed information may be found on the COVID-19 update log on NYSCOPBA's website.

NYSCOPBA began efforts to protect members from this unprecedented virus and its impact on February 27, 2020 by distributing the memo 'Information re Novel Coronavirus Disease and How to Protect Yourself' to all members. Subsequently, through constant Executive Board communication, assistance from the law firm, incessant communication with the Governor's office, state Legislators, demands to State Agencies and Departments, press outlets, and the membership, NYSCOPBA was successful in securing the following items, protocols and procedures to keep members safe:

- Hand Sanitizer Allowance under 4936 and provision by OMH, OPWDD
- Hand Sanitizing Stations
- Visitation Stopped
- Volunteers Stopped
- NON- Emergency Transports Stopped
- Drafts Stopped
- Internal Movement Stopped
- Construction Stopped / Except For Essential OGS Infrastructure Projects
- PPE's for Quarantined units Supplied
- Suspension of NON-High Risk Parole Reporting
- Allowance of N95 Mask / Surgical Mask

This pandemic is not over. We will continue to press upon our employers through all means possible to ensure the safety of you, your families and your union brothers and sisters.

Please stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 news and information by visiting our website.

Stay safe!