

Shuron Branch

Hello, I'm a healthcare worker and a union member for 1199 SEIU UHWE I'm also a delegate I've been employed for 35 years at JHH.

I was out for 12-14 days with covid-19 contracting from a co-worker in the cafeteria. I was paid for 10 days after which I had to use my own benefit. This is why I think that it's important for this bill to be passed for all of essential workers. My concerns during my timeout with this disease was concerning my Mom whose elderly with Alzheimer's disease who's dependent on me for her care such as preparing her weekly meals and handling her business calls and banking. I was not able to get her to understand the seriousness of this disease and why I had to stay away from her. We had PPE in our department however in some departments such as EVC there were shortages. 1199 CALLED US DAILY checking in to make sure that we were ok and if we needed additional PPE and was passing it out to our essential workers who are mostly union. It was and is appreciated they continue to call. I think that this was important because once you have been hit with covid-19 you are never the same it drains your energy for a good while. We are working in a hazardous environment and the pay should reflect it you never know who's going to come into the cafeteria , the emergency room or pharmacy but what we do know is that it's our job to serve and care for them no matter what. We don't need a post card or free meal although it's nice we need legislation in place to reward us with proper staffing PPE and pay to show us how much essential workers are appreciated after all they can't do anything without us therefore they should pay us like it and protect us like.