

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12
Locals 3, 39 & 501, AFL-CIO

CDCR and CHCF tell IUOE Unit 12 that our members can volunteer for the COVID-19 virus vaccination, but it will not be mandatory – December 28, 2020

Yesterday afternoon, IUOE Unit 12 participated with several other State employee unions on a conference call with CDCR and CHCF representatives regarding upcoming COVID-19 vaccinations at the CHCF and CDCR facilities.

The vaccinations are based on certain criteria, prioritizing employees and inmates based upon age and health conditions, exposure to the coronavirus at the facility, and for employees, the type of work being performed.

These facilities are basing vaccination decisions on risk factors, not on whether potential recipients are inmates or employees. Inmates will be vaccinated by medical staff and employees will be vaccinated by contractors for the most part.

CDCR and CHCF are hoping that at least 70% of inmates and employees at high risk will volunteer.

The first vaccinations will take place today at CHCF in Stockton. A combination of 65 inmates and employees have volunteered to be vaccinated starting at 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Earlier in the month, both State agencies sent out surveys to employees asking them if they wanted to volunteer for the vaccination.

Originally the agencies were told that they would be receiving 6,700 doses from Pfizer, but unfortunately that allocation had been cut to half of that. From Moderna they expect 18,600 doses.

About 10,750 prisoners have active COVID-19 cases, and 111 prisoners have died from complications associated with the virus. Among employees, 3,234 have active infections and 11 have died.

The agencies hope to have the vaccine available at all institutions by the end of January. If an employee does not get vaccinated now, they can get it later.

UNION STRONG!

Steve Crouch, Director of Public Employees and Chief Negotiator