

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

November 20, 2020



Colleagues,

Earlier this week, we sent out an email to staff alerting them that the Superintendent would be announcing that most staff will be operating remotely as of November 25, and that all school “wellness” visits would be delayed until January. Unfortunately, as happens sometimes, some of our principals tried to exercise autonomy and put their own interpretations on what was happening, and a lot of confusion was created.

Thankfully, yesterday, the Superintendent sent out confirmation of what we had already told you. Please review that letter because it will provide a lot more specifics of what the expectations are moving forward.

John M. Abeigon
jabeigon@newarkteachersunion.com

To be clear, the NTU does not send out information to our members until it is verified and confirmed. While conditions continue to change rapidly, when we send something out, it is accurate and up-to-date.

We understand the frustration when you are getting mixed messages, and feel pressured by your administrator to go against the Superintendent’s orders. We continue to work closely with the district to try and limit that in the future. We shall not cease from fighting to achieve the ultimate goal—universal, clearly-written directions!

The NTU Office will be closing at 1 PM on November 25, and closed entirely on November 26 and 27 for the Thanksgiving break.

Honoring Mayor Baraka’s “stay at home” advisory, the NTU office will be operating Remote Only from November 30 until at least December 4.

As always, you can reach us via email—mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com.

Have a safe and very CDC Thanksgiving!

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

November 20, 2020

UPDATED! Health Benefits FAQ's

Next Tuesday, John Cunha and Mike Maillaro will be available on NTU's WebEx to help with any questions you may have for your Active Enrollment for your health benefits. Stop in, ask your questions!

[Tuesday, November 24th 1:00 - 2:30 PM](#)

[Tuesday, November 24th 3:00 - 4:30 PM](#)



- [Active Enrollment Website](#)
- [Updated FAQ's from NBOE](#)
- [Medical Benefit Comparison](#)
- [Prescription Benefit Comparison](#)
- [Chapter 44 Contribution Chart](#)

If I am currently waiving my benefits or want to stay on my current plan, do I have to do anything?

YES!! The default for everyone will be to move to the new NJEHP plan. If you want to waive your benefits or move to a different plan, you must select that during the open enrollment period from November 2 to November 30. **EVERYONE MUST COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS!!!**

What is a Flexible Spending Account?

[We posted a terrific YouTube video explaining FSA's. on our YouTube Channel](#) . You must be signed up during open enrollment as it becomes effective Jan 1, 2021. If you don't sign up now you have to wait until the following year. The limits for 2021 are \$2750 for health costs and \$5000 child care costs.

If I move to the NJEHP, what happens to my prescription?

IMPORTANT! Anyone who selects the NJEHP will have to take the NJEHP Prescription Plan as well. There are some big differences with the prescription plan including co-pays and what prescriptions are covered, so take that into consideration when making your decision.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

November 20, 2020

How do I know if I am an NTU Member?

The easiest way is to check your paystub. If it says “Union Dues/NTU” under "After-Tax Deductions" then you are a NTU Member! Not being a member is like expecting a piece of teacher’s lounge pizza without contributing to the pizza party!

If you are not a member, reach out to Subrina Screven at sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com immediately!

What is COPE?

Under the law, Unions cannot use dues money for political reasons. Because of this, we ask our members to consider making voluntary contributions to NTU’s COPE (Committee on Political Education) Fund. NTU COPE is responsible for building a political structure that can communicate the union's goals and objectives through legislation, by working with government officials at the local, state and national level, and by being effective in organizing campaigns.

This includes organizing members around important legislative issues and elections.

So why are we mentioning this right now? The runoff election for the two open Senates seats is of key importance to us. It’s the difference between ensuring President Biden and Vice President Harris can move forward their agenda or staying with the Corporate Reform model DeVos has spread. The NTU COPE will be sending support to our brothers and sisters in Georgia!

How do you sign up for COPE?

[Go right to the NTU Website and fill out the attached form!](#)



NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

November 20, 2020



Wellness and Self-Care

NTU Vice President and NBOE Social Worker Love Gaillard put together a wonderful video to discuss how to express wellness while doing remote learning. Please check it out, and thank you, Love for taking the time to do this!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0poOpvf9r8U>

SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, November 24—NBOE Meeting, 6 PM**
- **Wednesday, November 25—Early Dismissal**
- **Thursday November 26- Friday November 27—Thanksgiving Holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, December 15—NTU Executive Board Meeting, 3:30 PM**
- **Wednesday December 16—NTU Building Rep Meeting, 3:30 PM**

Please note that November 25th and November 30th are work days before or after a holiday. To ensure that you get paid for the holiday weekend, you must take a personal day if you are going to be absent on any of those days.

You can take a sick day on those days as long as it is part of an approved medical leave. Unless it is part of an extended FMLA, you must submit a medical certificate to NBOE Office of Administrative Services within 3 days of your return to work.

Union-Plus Holiday Giveback Campaign!



Union Plus is giving \$1,000 to 100 extraordinary union members this holiday season in the Union Plus Holiday Giveback Contest and you get to nominate the winners! But hurry — there are only two weeks left to submit your nomination!

Tell us all about an extraordinary union member you know — someone who's always looking out for everyone else but never for themselves — and they'll be entered to win.

There are three ways to enter, so take your pick!

1. Record a one-minute video & submit your video using the button below.
2. Post the video on your personal Instagram account using the hashtags #UnionPlusGiveAGrand and #Contest.
3. Write about your nominee. Use the entry form to paint us a picture (in 300 words or less) of an extraordinary union member.

Winners will be awarded throughout December.

[Enter now and help us make the holidays a little brighter for 100 extraordinary union members.](#)

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

November 20, 2020

NTU Education Resource Center

Unfortunately, the NTU's Education Resource Center will not be available. There was no way to reopen following CDC Guidelines. We will send out updates if and when the situation changes.

MEMBER SERVICES

NTU Members should never hesitate to communicate with us by phone, email, etc regarding any of the issues we handle at the Newark Teachers Union.

- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- Health and Supplemental Benefits
- AFT Membership Benefits
- FMLA and other leaves of absence
- Assistance with Evaluations and Observations
- Disciplinary Hearings
- Labor Relations & Payroll
- Legal Representation
- Workers Comp
- Tuition Reimbursement



Call 973-643-8430 or visit our website <http://newark.nj.aft.org/> or email mmail-lero@newarkteachersunion.com to address these or any other concerns you may have.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NewarkTeachersUnion481/>) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/newark_teachers_union/?hl=en)

Under the current situation, it is vital to stay informed! If you have changed your address, phone number, or location, please reach out to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com to let us know. Also, if you don't get our weekly updates, send an email to mmailaro@newarkteachersunion.com to make sure you are on our mailing list.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

NTU Staff

Editor/Director of Research
and Communication

Mike Maillaro

mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com

Assistant to Secretary/Treasurer

Subrina Screven

sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com

General Counsel

Eugene Liss

Education Resource Department

Johanna Rios

Marivelle Ocasio

Part-Time Staff Reps

Robert Palumbo

John Alvino

Security/Maintenance

James Santiago

Newark Teachers Union

Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

3rd Floor

1019 Broad Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-643-8430

Fax: 973-643-8435

Fax: 973-242-5880

<http://newark.nj.aft.org>

Executive Board

John M. Abeigon, President/Director of Organization

Michael Iovino, Secretary/Treasurer

Vice Presidents

Victor Afonso

Kathleen Murphy-Butler

Noor Alam

Justin Petino

Cristina Balboa

Silvia Pereira

Chris Canik

Marisa Rodriguez

Ronnie D. Carney

Jennifer Ramos

Timothy Carr

Ryan Sandor

Donna Charles

Larry Sullivan

John Cunha

Cassandra Talmadge

Josephine Donnellan

Neil Thomas

Love Gaillard

Tennille Wasek

Francisco Garcia

Carmen Lopez Wolf

Nancy Gianni

Clarence Jones III

Yvette Jordan

Jerry Moore

