

Hearing Education Services

Chapter Newsletter

February 2021

I want to thank you for staying engaged with the union including attending our remote chapter meetings during this difficult time. I'm heartened by the way our chapter members continue to support each other despite our professional and personal challenges.

You raised a variety of questions at our Jan. 12 chapter meeting. I encourage you to [visit the UFT's FAQ](#) for the most up to date information about your safety, rights and benefits during the 2020-21 school year. This newsletter answers your questions with links to the appropriate section of the FAQ.

I hope to see you at our Feb. 23 chapter meeting. You will receive an email invitation soon with more details.

Sincerely,

Raquel

Time and attendance

- If you test positive for COVID-19, CAR days will not be deducted during a quarantine period.
- All rules regarding allowances apply to all DOE employees regardless of where they live, e.g., Connecticut and New Jersey. The only criteria is employment status.
- If you have side effects after having the COVID-19 vaccine, you will not lose CAR days. The union has fought for us to have time to receive the vaccine, including time to recuperate if we become sick after vaccination.

- You should provide at least three days' advance notice to your principal/supervisor for any such absence to receive the vaccine so appropriate coverage can be arranged.
- You will need to provide documentation of the appointment as well as your receipt of the vaccine to your administrator.

[Read our remote work FAQ](#)

Vaccine information

- The vaccine is not mandatory and the DOE cannot ask for vaccination records as a matter of routine. But, if you need time off to get the vaccine or to recover from side effects, you will have to provide proof of vaccination.
- The UFT has been working closely with our health care partners across the city to create a COVID-19 vaccine distribution network just for our members. For more information about the UFT's vaccine program, please see our [vaccine FAQ page](#). Please contact the UFT Vaccine Hotline at [212-701-9677](tel:212-701-9677) if you need assistance.
- The DOE has extended medical accommodations for the duration of the school year. No updated decisions have been made regarding medical accommodations based on receiving the vaccine.

[Read our vaccine FAQ](#)

Itinerant issues and concerns

At our last chapter meeting, you told us some supervisors mentioned they would like you, the itinerant teachers, to return to the building to see students who are attending in person. You were told parents or administrators were asking why you could not work in a school building if District 75 schools are open.

We do not want you to be insubordinate or to have a confrontation with your supervisor. A verbal conversation about the matter during a department meeting and a direct request by a principal are two different scenarios. If you are directed to go in, please let your chapter leader know and forward your email conversations. We are monitoring this situation. As of now, there have been no agreements and we are to remain remote until further notice.

- Our safety is the union's priority regarding returning to the school building. Until the UFT Health and Safety Department has met on our behalf to discuss the issue and find us appropriate space to teach (if that is possible) no one is instructed go back.

- You asked why the itinerant MOA is not changing or being relayed to our supervisors. District 75 Administrative Assistant Superintendent Helen Kaufman and the supervisors are aware the MOA has not changed. They are hoping you do not know your rights and that in the confusion you will return before negotiations have been settled.

CTLE requirements

For answers to specific questions, such as when you must submit your hours to the state, please call the UFT at [212-331-6311](tel:212-331-6311). A certification specialist will help address your individual needs. The following Q&A contains more detailed information about fulfilling your CTLE requirements.

[Read our CTLE FAQ](#)

Members not receiving UFT emails

During the pandemic, it's more important than ever that members receive UFT news and information via email. Members can now log in to the [UFT website](#), go to My Account in the top left corner and subscribe (or resubscribe) to emails. It's as simple as checking a checkbox.

If you or one of your fellow HES Chapter members are not receiving UFT emails, please contact the UFT at [212-331-6312](tel:212-331-6312). You will be connected to the UFT Membership Department.

Recess periods

The mid-winter break or spring recess will not be taken away from staff and students again this school year. All holidays for this school year have already been negotiated. We will have a mid-winter break and spring recess as planned.



Raquel Sepulveda

Hearing Education Services Chapter Leader

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