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UUP COVID-19 Information

1 message

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Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 7:10 AM

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To: maryann.russo@stonybrook.edu



UUP HSC Chapter

AFT Local #2190
NYSUT Local #40-809

Important Information Regarding Benefits

Please note that unless you have tested positive for COVID-19 OR are on a mandated 2 week quarantine due to exposure you will use your accruals for any work absences. If you have a positive COVID-19 test from elsewhere (drive through testing, outside hospital, etc) or if you have had a possible COVID-19 exposure, please contact employee health at (631) 444-7767 BEFORE coming to work. Employee Health is the ONLY way COVID-19 positive employees and those with exposures will be excused WITHOUT using accruals.

Empire Plan Enrollees

Cost Sharing Waivers for COVID-19 Testing

Enrollee cost sharing requirements for COVID-19 testing at approved locations are waived. In addition, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles for visits associated with COVID-19 testing are waived, whether the testing is provided in a health care provider's office, an urgent care center, or an emergency department. This cost share waiver applies to all active Empire Plan enrollees, early retirees and Medicare eligible retirees.

Early Prescription Refills

To ensure enrollee access to medications, enrollees will be allowed one emergency prescription refill of up to a 30-day supply for three prescriptions of retail medications and one prescription of specialty medications during a 90-day period. Normal copay rules apply.

Managing Coronavirus Anxiety

Visit the Beacon Lens at beaconlens.com for advice and tips on managing stress and anxiety due to coronavirus. Additional online resources on this topic

are available in a guide from the NYS Office of Mental Health and at the Centers for Disease Control.

Nurseline

The Empire Plan Nurseline is fully prepared to share information with enrollees on the COVID-19 virus and triage them to the appropriate level of care as necessary based on the severity of their symptoms. As a reminder, the Empire Plan Nurseline number is 1-877-769-7447, Option # 5.

UUP will keep you posted as any new information regarding the coverage of the COVID-19 virus by the Empire Plan becomes available. Keep apprised on COVID-19 by visiting <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> . Here you can also sign up for email updates on the coronavirus.

UUP Virtudent



Dear UUP-represented employees,

During these difficult times, the UUP Benefit Trust Fund realizes that emergencies do arise. UUP has partnered with Delta Dental and Virtudent to provide you with virtual dental care for emergency services.

Most dental offices are being advised to close for non-emergency procedures, and emergency rooms may soon be overwhelmed. Virtudent can help you access dental care without leaving the privacy and safety of your own home.

Now, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, we're making virtual dental consultations available from anywhere. UUP-represented employees can simply go to <https://info.virtudent.com/teledentistry> to learn more and to schedule a virtual consultation.

If you have dental insurance through the Benefit Trust Fund, Virtudent will bill Delta Dental for a limited oral evaluation. UUP's active and voluntary plan benefit is limited to one problem focused evaluation within a 30-day period. If you are non-NYSHIP eligible, the cost of the consultation will be at a discounted rate of \$49. You can pay by credit card or through your FSA/HSA card or account. To learn more, please contact us at dentist@myvirtudent.com.

Visionworks

Dear Visionworks Patients,

In accordance with recommendations from the CDC, as well as Federal and State authorities, we are temporarily closing all Visionworks' locations due to the COVID-19 virus, but we will preserve access to our doctors for emergency eye care needs. With

this temporary pause, we can protect the health and safety of our associates, doctors, and the communities we serve.

While our storefronts are closed to the public, we are still safely working to ensure we meet each patient's needs.

If you recently purchased glasses or contacts with us, we will ship them directly to you.

If you have an exam scheduled during the closure, we will call or email you to reschedule your appointment.

If you have lost or broken glasses or just need a new pair of glasses or contacts, and you have an existing prescription, we have several options for you at [visionworks.com](https://www.visionworks.com) where you can utilize many insurance plans.

In addition, we will work to assist you if you have an expired prescription. If you have an essential eye care need or an emergency, you can call us at 1-800-784-7427 and we will work to connect you to one of our doctors.

We have implemented significant procedures to ensure the safety of our patients, our doctors and our associates. When we reopen our locations, we will continue with the appropriate procedures to ensure the safety of our community.

For more information visit [visionworks.com/safety-protocol](https://www.visionworks.com/safety-protocol).

In the past few weeks, we have put policies in place to help our associates, including: flexible schedules, supplemental pay for reduced hours, advanced paid time off and continuing pay for those associates directly impacted by COVID-19. As we close all of our stores, we will continue to care for our associates by extending these policies through April 3rd.

We apologize for any inconvenience this unexpected closure may cause you. Thank you for being our patient and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Pete Bridgman
President, Visionworks of America

**Online Professional Development
Opportunity - EKB**

Hello all,

I wanted to take a moment and highlight a UUP negotiated benefit. UUP-represented employees have the opportunity to access thousands of eLearning courses, eBooks and short course videos for opportunities to enhance their professional and career development, for certification preparation and continuing education in a variety of areas with an **Empire KnowledgeBank (EKB)** license.

The EKB license can be accessed anytime and anywhere with an internet connection and is provided at no expense to the campus or the employee.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE EKB eLEARNING COLLECTION?

The eLearning products include courses, eBooks and videos in the following areas:

- Business and Professional Development
- Desktop Software
- Project Management
- Leadership/Manage
- Essentials Supervision
- Decision Making
- Technical such as:

- Cloud/Virtualization
- ITIL
- Security
- Software Development
- Web

The EKB also provides training that supports accreditation and Continuing Education Units (CEU)

HOW TO APPLY

An EKB license is valid through March 31, 2021.

- To apply, employees must complete the NYS/UUP JLMC EKB Application and submit it to the NYS/UUP JLMC.

- Guidelines and an application may be accessed at
- <https://goer.ny.gov/professional-development-opportunities>
- There is no application deadline.

Be well,

Jeri

Jeri O'Bryan-Losee
she/her/hers
UUP Statewide Secretary/Treasurer

Student Loans and COVID-19

[UUP/AFT Student Debt Clinic link to Resources](#)



If you have questions or concerns
please call the UUP office at 631
444-1505 or email
ckube@uupmail.org

[\[UUP HSC Chapter Website\]](#) | [\[E-mail the UUP HSC Chapter\]](#) | [\[UUP HSC Calendar\]](#)
[\[Statewide UUP Website\]](#) IUUP HSC Office (631) 444-1505

Connect with us



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