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April 27, 2020

Ms. Stephanie Smith  
BCGEU President  
4911 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC, V5G 3W3

Dear Ms. Smith,

**Re: BCGEU COVID- 19 Notifications Request**

We have been provided with copies of letters dated April 20, 2020 to employers within CSSEA's membership regarding a BCGEU request to notify it if an employee, client or other person that regularly visits a member's workplace is found to have contracted COVID-19.

We appreciate the BCGEU's concern for the safety of personnel at community social services worksites during this pandemic, and specifically its commitment to supporting and advising its members. CSSEA and its members share these concerns. The health and safety of employees and all others at member worksites is paramount. Employers will continue to communicate with and take guidance from public health officials in the event that an individual at their workplaces tests positive, while respecting individual privacy. Employers will also continue to meet their obligations under the OHS provisions of Article 22 of the Collective Agreement, particularly in relation to communicable diseases, and under the OHS regulations, while working together with local joint occupational health and safety committees with BCGEU delegates to address emerging risks. At the same time, they need to be mindful to not disclose more than is necessary to address the risk. This would include limiting disclosure to those who are actually at risk of exposure while, whenever possible, avoiding the identification of persons who have tested positive. How much information is shared and with whom will depend on the circumstances and will be done in consultation with local public health officials.

CSSEA and its members will continue to work collaboratively with the BCGEU to address specific concerns throughout this evolving pandemic response.

Yours truly,



Gentil Mateus, CEO  
Community Social Services Employers' Association of BC