

**GHI Member Petition
COVID-19
December 14, 2020**

Dear GHI Board of Directors,

COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in our community:

- 219 new cases were reported in our zip code (20770) in the last three weeks (November 16th through December 14th) for a pandemic total of 1154 cases.¹
- 94% of ICU beds (23 out of 24 beds) at Doctor's Hospital in Lanham and 97% of ICU beds (48 out of 50 beds) at Prince George's Hospital Center in Prince George's County were occupied as of December 9, 2020.²
- The test positivity rate in Prince George's County as of December 10th was greater than 10%.³
- The average daily case rate in Prince George's County per 100,000 as of December 10th was 45.7.⁴

In order to slow community spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and well-being of GHI employees, GHI members, as well as their respective families, we petition the Board to take the following steps immediately and to keep them in place until January 31, 2021:

- Limit maintenance requests to emergency only and/or work that can be performed safely outdoors.
- Institute remote work for any GHI employee whose job duties permit.
- Provide for greater socially distant workspace for employees who must report to work in person, particularly the maintenance staff whose office suite is small and confined.
- Provide non-management employees, whose duties require them to report to work in the administration complex a \$3.00 per hour increase in pay.⁵
- Starting January 1, 2021 provide administrative leave to any employee who is required to quarantine pursuant to a Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis. Note, current federally mandated pay for quarantining expires December 30, 2020.⁶

We would appreciate consideration of this petition at the December 17th Board meeting.

Regards,

The members listed on the following pages.

¹ Data from: [Prince George's County COVID19 Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

² ['There's No Place for Them to Go': I.C.U. Beds Near Capacity Across U.S. - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com)

³ [Prince George's Co. to shut down indoor dining amid rise in coronavirus cases | WTOP](https://www.wtop.com)

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

⁵ This is the amount Co-op Grocery Supermarket and Pharmacy is paying its employees in additional wages during the COVID-19 pandemic in consideration of the welfare of its employees.

⁶ [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](https://www.dol.gov)

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Benjamin and Angella Foster
10L Plateau Place

Daya Solomon
14A Laurel Hill

Kristine White
14K Hillside

Jean Newcomb
13U Hillside

Rob Petrie
43B Ridge

Katie Thompson
9A Southway

Hannah Gould
19S Ridge

Mary Ernsberger
15H Laurel Hill

Diana McFadden
71E Ridge

Aileen Kroll
14Z2 Laurel Hill

Leah, Michael and Dinah Cohen
4D Hillside

Melissa Thompson
45Q Ridge

Molly Lester
6M Hillside

Michele Mason
13V Hillside Rd

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Doreen Christian
4G Hillside Rd

Jason Wood
9Q Southway

Stephen Holland
59E Ridge

Yoni Siegel
10M Plateau Place

Henry Haslinger
4A Ridge

James Parsons
14V5 Ridge

Cynthia Newcomer
4U Laurel Hill

Ben Fischler
14V4 Ridge

Ronnie Scotkin
54M Ridge

Annie Shaw
39B Ridge

Caveats:

- Support if administrative leave is paid leave
- Non-emergency work may be performed as long as the member is absent from unit and/or in another room.
- No GHI employees are laid off as a result of these temporary measures.

Phillip and Charlotte Lake
13V Ridge

Caveats:

- Maintenance staff should have discretion on what constitutes an emergency so that work necessary to preserve units is not postponed until after the pandemic.
- Do not support any staff layoffs as a result of these actions.

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Sue Stern

9E Ridge

Caveat:

- Supports the petition with exception of bullet #4 regarding additional pay

Barbara Jean Lombardo

15L Laurel Hill

Request:

- GHI keeps the membership fully informed on the number of employees who test positive

Lore Rosenthal and Michael Hartman

4R Gardenway

Lore Suggestions (if not in place):

- only one person per truck
- same truck each day (or deep cleaning each night)
- maintenance staff asked to eat their lunches in their vehicles (or out of doors, weather permitting), not in the lunch room, and bring their own coolers, so they don't need to use the refrigerator.