


From: Jake Metcalfe JakeM@afscmelocal52.org 
Subject: FW: Atwood Update
Date: October 20, 2020 at 11:53 AM
To: Samantha Harris SamanthaH@afscmelocal52.org



fyi

From: Goecker, Jared D (DOA) <jared.goecker@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Jake Metcalfe <JakeM@afscmelocal52.org>
Cc: Penner, Brian (DOA sponsored) <bpenner@apea-aft.org>; Jordan Adams <jordan@local71.com>; Charisse Millett <cmillett@psea.net>; TEAME President <teamepresident@gmail.com>; Butts, Dale R (DOL) <dale.butts@avtec.edu>; Southworth, Monica [AK] <monica.southworth@neaalaska.org>; Brad Wilson <brad@acoa.us>; SOA HR Leads <SOAHRLeads@alaska.gov>; Harrison, Anna J (DOT) <anna.harrison@alaska.gov>; Mertl-Posthumus, Benthe (DOA) <benthe@alaska.gov>; McCrummen, Dan (DOA) <dan.mccrummen@alaska.gov>; Backes, Gloria G (DOA) <gloria.backes@alaska.gov>; Fechter, John E (DOA) <john.fechter@alaska.gov>; Gelston, Aaron D (DOA) <aaron.gelston@alaska.gov>; Sheehan, Kate E (DOA) <kate.sheehan@alaska.gov>; Sutch, Nancy A (DOA) <nancy.sutch@alaska.gov>
Subject: RE: Atwood Update

Hi Jake,

Thank you for the follow up questions. This is very helpful to know what else is being said out there so we can help address it and put this issue to rest.

There was no SOA communication that there were bed bugs in the HVAC system. I have been informed this rumor is completely baseless.

Due to initial miscommunication/misinformation involving a lot of people, employees on the 15th floor and some employees on the 16th floor were told to telework for the rest of the week. There was, however, no evacuation order nor was the word "evacuate" even used as that has a certain meaning and weight this situation didn't merit.

Employees in the affected area were directed by division leadership to prepare their personal work areas for the exterminators to come in over the weekend. Putting away papers and files, removing personal items, etc. This was a general directive given to everyone and was not specifically assigned to newest employees or members.

Attached is a memo that Kate sent to HRMs at the end of August regarding this very issue of when to notify employees or not regarding COVID cases. To summarize, it comes down to whether or not it is a congregate setting when determining if employees are notified of a positive test. In non-congregate settings, employees are not notified of a positive test and any "close contacts" will be investigated by contact tracers at DHSS. Any employees who should get tested will be notified by the State's Epi team. That said, if you have a list of employees who believe they may have been in contact, please share with me and I will pass along to DHSS so the State's Epi team is aware as they do their tracing.

Hope this helps, let me know if there are more questions or concerns.
-Jared

Jared Goecker

Deputy Director of Labor Relations
Division of Personnel & Labor Relations
Dept. of Administration, State of Alaska
907-465-4429 (office)

From: Jake Metcalfe <JakeM@afscmelocal52.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Goecker, Jared D (DOA) <jared.goecker@alaska.gov>
Cc: Penner, Brian (DOA sponsored) <bpenner@apea-aft.org>; Jordan Adams <jordan@local71.com>; Charisse Millett <cmillett@psea.net>; TEAME President <teamepresident@gmail.com>; Butts, Dale R (DOL) <dale.butts@avtec.edu>; Southworth, Monica [AK] <monica.southworth@neaalaska.org>; Brad Wilson <brad@acoa.us>; SOA HR Leads <SOAHRLeads@alaska.gov>; Harrison, Anna J (DOT) <anna.harrison@alaska.gov>; Mertl-Posthumus, Benthe (DOA) <benthe@alaska.gov>; McCrummen, Dan (DOA) <dan.mccrummen@alaska.gov>; Backes, Gloria G (DOA) <gloria.backes@alaska.gov>; Fechter, John E (DOA) <john.fechter@alaska.gov>; Gelston, Aaron D (DOA) <aaron.gelston@alaska.gov>; Sheehan, Kate E (DOA) <kate.sheehan@alaska.gov>; Sutch, Nancy A (DOA) <nancy.sutch@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Atwood Update

Hi Jared:

Thank you for this communication. A couple issues remain unresolved. Was there any communication sent to employees that the HVAC system was infested with bed bugs? Were members on the 15th and 16th's floors sent home until Tuesday? If so, I assume it was for a precautionary reason related to bed bugs. Please explain.

We've been told that our newest members/employees are being ordered to sanitize third floor cubicles. Is that true and if so, why?

What information went out to our members regarding contact with COVID infected staff in the Governor's office? Is the SOA providing testing for members that may have had contacted in an elevator, bathroom or hall way with the infected staff? Were the infected staff members and other staff member in the Governor's office wearing masks in the building and in the Governor's office?

Thank you.

Jake Metcalfe
ASEA

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 15, 2020, at 3:37 PM, Goecker, Jared D (DOA)

On Oct 10, 2020, at 9:07 PM, Goecker, Jared D (DOA) <jared.goecker@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi All,

It is being reported there is concern about a potential pest outbreak in the Atwood Building. There is a lot of misinformation about this situation and I'm hearing from you all there is a lot of confusion from your members. We will be sending out a notice shortly to the Atwood building with an update to clarify and hopefully put people's minds at ease. I do want to get you all on the same page with us to help quell the misinformation, though.

So, here's the facts:

- In September a bed bug was discovered on an employee who works on the 3rd or 4th floor of the Atwood. At that time, the bug was promptly killed, and a pest control company was brought in to inspect the floors. They found no bugs or evidence of bugs. Nevertheless, they did clean and treat the area. My understanding is this was a heat treatment so no chemicals or anything like that. At that time, the issue was believed to have been resolved.
- This Monday (October 12th) a bug was found on the wall on the 3rd floor close to where the original one had been seen. It was not confirmed if it was a bed bug or not before it was disposed of.
- Out of an abundance of caution, however, pest control is coming out over the weekend to do another heat treatment of the 3rd and 4th floors. No fumigation or chemicals. Those floors and office areas have also been cleaned.
- Building management has confirmed there is no issue with bugs being in the HVAC system nor reason for employees to be concerned on other floors.
- No floors have been evacuated; employees were encouraged to work from home if they wanted, though there is no need outside of maybe the 3rd or 4th floor.
- The Atwood is not closed, nor was it closed, nor will it be closed at this time.
- Employees on the 3rd and 4th floors are being allowed to telework or take leave in the meantime.
- Building Management is having the exterminator do follow ups after the treatment this Saturday to continue to monitor the situation.

The exact floors aren't being shared in the general notice going out for privacy concerns for the employee. I'm sharing with you all to help inform you, but I do ask that you be mindful of that and be respectful of the employee's privacy.

Thank you, please let me know if you have any questions or comments. We appreciate your help in clarifying the situation to employees.

Thanks,

Jared

Jared Goecker

Deputy Director of Labor Relations
Division of Personnel & Labor Relations
Dept. of Administration, State of Alaska
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