From: <u>DHR - Commissioner"s Office</u>

Subject: Paid leave extended for State Executive Branch employees through agreement with VSEA and VTA

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:47:05 PM

Dear State of Vermont Employee,

The State of Vermont, the Vermont State Employees' Association, Inc. (VSEA) and the Vermont Troopers' Association (VTA) are pleased to announce a tentative agreement which will provide paid leave to employees unable to work for reasons arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While any employee who is able work will be expected to do so, employees unable to work due to self-isolation, COVID-19 related illness and the closure of schools/daycares will continue to be paid. The new COVID-19 paid leave created by this tentative agreement will be available for employees' use beginning Wednesday, March 18 through the close of business on April 5, 2020. This will alleviate concerns for those employees who don't have sufficient leave time, and provide a bridge to get us through the next few weeks while we get a fuller picture of any upcoming congressional action, work through unemployment insurance issues, and understand how we can provide impacted Vermonters a safety net.

This is a rapidly changing environment and challenging for all of us in our business and personal lives, and this agreement ensures State employees will have financial stability if they are unable to work due to COVID-19.

Business offices will receive timesheet coding guidance and employees will be provided with specific provisions of the agreement within the next few days.

I truly appreciate the cooperation and the open communication with VSEA and VTA leadership as the situation continues to evolve.

Have a nice evening,

Beth

Beth Fastiggi | Commissioner | Vermont Department of Human Resources 120 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05620-2505 | Main: 802-828-3491