

Have You Already Had COVID?

Management and the Union have worked together pretty well to create conditions within the plant that reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. For a while it worked. It is not working now. Rates of transmission within the GMF are high—and by “high,” I mean that at the current rate many of us will have had the disease before any of us get protection from the vaccine. Some of us will become very sick.

The Union is investigating whether contact tracing is being done correctly. This is a critical safety issue. Contact tracing is a skill, and it is not easy to acquire. Consider the problem of determining whether or not you have had a close contact. The standard is not whether you stood close to someone for 15 consecutive minutes. The actual standard is whether you stood close to someone for five minutes three times within 24 hours. When you are called by a USPS contact tracer, you may be upset, or scared, or distracted for a variety of reasons. Your initial answer may not be correct, or if it is correct, it may not be clear. An interview with a contact tracer should take some time. You should have the opportunity to work through your day(s) to identify possible contacts. You need to be given time to understand the questions and formulate answers. If you have been interviewed by a contact tracer from the Post Office, please call me and tell me about the interview. If the interview was not thorough, we need to know that. If we can prove that the contact tracing procedure needs improvement, we will work to make that happen. And if contact tracing is already being done correctly, that would be important to know as well. Effective contact tracing is vital if we are to keep the disease from spreading. Please share your experience. Make things better. We are depending on you.

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