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Good afternoon:

I am writing on behalf of the NSGEU members working in the 811 call centre. The NSGEU has been informed about COVID exposures within the workplace: many staff are now awaiting testing and results, and two members have tested positive for the virus.

While the work being done by 811 workers is essential and a huge contributing factor to Nova Scotia's COVID response, we have the technology and ability for these members to do their job safely and effectively off-site.

Since the beginning of COVID-19's third wave in Nova Scotia almost every COVID briefing has included a plea from the Premier and Dr. Strang that people should be working from home if they can.

The NSGEU is demanding that you immediately heed the advice to allow those who can to work from home. We all have role to play in beating this third wave. Nova Scotians are being asked to isolate and avoid unnecessary contact. As an employer, you need to create the conditions for employees to safely carry out their duties.

The measures that are currently being taken in the workplace (masking, distancing, etc.) are clearly not enough to control the spread. Given the impact this third wave has already had on the members working 811, would it not make sense to have these members working from home, including those who are self-isolating?

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Jason MacLean
President

JML/lb