

# ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN



May 6, 2022

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF SERVICE SUBJECT: COVID-19 PCR TESTING QUEST  
DIAGNOSTICS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ZERO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE FOR  
COVID-19 PCR TESTING AT THE POLICE ACADEMY AND ONE POLICE PLAZA. IN  
ADDITION, SELF TESTING KITS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT EVERY PRECINCT, PSA  
AND TRANSIT COMMAND.

THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL ACTIVE AND RETIRED UNIFORMED AND  
CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE.

AS A REMINDER, ALL COMMANDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THEIR  
TESTING SPECIMENS IN A TIMELY FASHION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE BOROUGH  
LOCATION.

MONDAY – FRIDAY, FROM 0600 TO 1800 HOURS  
ONE POLICE PLAZA  
2ND FL. NEAR PRESS ROOM

POLICE ACADEMY  
ROOM PT. 109

\*\*\*PLEASE BE REMINDED, PRIOR TO TAKING EVERY TEST, MEMBER MUST  
ELECTRONICALLY SUBMIT THE TEST REQUEST USING THE QR CODE  
PROVIDED\*\*\*

\*\*\*MEMBERS MUST HAVE INSURANCE CARD AT THE TIME OF TESTING AND  
SHOULD SET UP A QUEST DIAGNOSTICS ACCOUNT PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE  
TESTING SITE\*\*\*

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*

COVID TESTING AFTER VACCINATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED UNLESS YOU  
DEVELOP COVID LIKE SYMPTOMS. YOU SHOULD NOT GET RETESTED FOR COVID-  
19 IF YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS WITHIN THE PAST 90 DAYS. A  
PERSON WHO RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM COVID-19 MAY STILL HAVE A  
POSITIVE TEST RESULT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NO LONGER CONTAGIOUS.

AUTHORITY: COMMANDING OFFICER, MEDICAL DIVISION

# Municipal Labor Committee

55 Water Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor / New York, NY 10041 / (212) 815-1474

May 5, 2022

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Local 831, I.B.T. Uniformed  
Sanitationmen's Association, AFL-CIO

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District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

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United Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFSCME, AFL-CIO

**Executive Secretary**  
ELLEN MEDWID

Renee Campion  
Commissioner  
New York City Office of Labor Relations  
22 Cortlandt St.  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Reimbursement for surveillance COVID testing**

Dear Commissioner Campion:

I write on behalf of the Municipal Labor Committee and its constituent unions to press the repeatedly raised issue of federal reimbursement/coverage for the significant costs occasioned by the widespread surveillance Covid testing encouraged by the City. The importance of this matter was highlighted by the recent renewal request for the GHI CBP program. The large requested increase comes at a critical point in our collective work under the auspice of the Tripartite Health Committee to address the stresses on the Stabilization Fund and reimagine the City healthcare programs. While the MLC will work with the City and Emblem to better understand the drivers of this increase and how it can be reduced, it has become clear that a significant portion of the increase – reflecting some \$250 million in additional plan expenses – derives directly from the COVID-19 pandemic and certain actions taken by the prior mayoral administration.

As you know, in August 2021, the City implemented a “vax-or-test” policy for all employees. As anticipated at the time, that policy resulted in a dramatic increase in COVID testing that was unrelated to specific exposures or health concerns, *i.e.*, surveillance testing. At the time, MLC leaders raised with City Hall how that policy was to be implemented. Specifically, there were discussions regarding who would pay for all these tests and where the tests could be obtained. City Hall assured us that workers would be held harmless for the cost. The City also acknowledged Emblem’s position that surveillance testing, as compared to testing resulting from a suspected exposure or symptoms, was not covered by the CBP program. When MLC leaders pursued the issue, City Hall assured us that our members would in no way bear the cost of the testing and that the additional cost of this program would be covered by federal and other assistance.

This known issue was then complicated and amplified by the prior administration’s decision to promote one particular chain of urgent care facilities – City MD – encouraging City employees to be tested at these locations. The City’s own webpages advertised City MD until removed under outside pressure. Emblem warned the City that City MD was charging significantly more for testing than any other urgent care, exacerbating the issue.

We have come to learn that the City has not reimbursed Emblem for the costs of the testing, which is what drove up the initial projected 16.4% renewal increase—an increase you know the MLC is striving to lessen. Yet, despite our constant prodding as to possible federal/state funding to cover these costs, all we hear is that OMB is looking at it. This is puzzling in that the Comptroller has indicated there is some \$318 million in unspent FY 2021 grants yet to be allocated and it is estimated that City government will receive some \$26 billion total to be spent by FY 2026.<sup>1</sup> By failing to reimburse this cost through available funding, the City is breaking its promise not to burden employees with the cost of the testing. Allowing this additional cost to be part of the CBP rate directly burdens the Stabilization Fund and, in turn, public employees who rely on it for benefits. Failing to allocate federal funding to this matter will speed the draw-down of the fund, complicate the work of the Tripartite Committee and, ultimately, burden employees.

We stand ready to work with the City to identify and allocate appropriate funds to address this matter. It is our understanding that addressing the cost of testing alone could reduce the renewal rate by some 10%. Such a reduction would inure to the benefit of the City, the MLC and the City workforce.

Sincerely,

*Harry Nespoli*  
Harry Nespoli

cc: Henry A. Garrido, MLC Co-Chair, District Council 37  
Michael Mulgrew, MLC Executive Vice-Chair, United Federation of Teachers  
Gregory Floyd, MLC Secretary, Teamsters Local 237  
Mark Cannizzaro, MLC Treasurer, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators  
Alan M. Klinger, Esq.

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<sup>1</sup> New York City Comptroller COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Tracker, available at [https://www.checkbooknyc.com/stimulus#\\_ftn2](https://www.checkbooknyc.com/stimulus#_ftn2).