



Voces de la Frontera
1027 S. 5th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Ph: 414-643-1620
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Briggs & Stratton
3300 124th Street, Wauwatosa, WI

Dear Briggs & Stratton, Human Resources:

June 3, 2020

I am writing on behalf of workers and their families who recently contacted Voces de la Frontera due to the tragic death of Michael Jackson who died from covid-19 and was a strong leader in organizing his co-workers to address their shared concerns about the coronavirus and the company's negligence in implementing the CDC OSHA guidelines to prevent exposure to this deadly virus.

The following concerns require immediate attention:

1. The company must require facilitators, group leads, and set ups who move between stations and departments to wear masks. The policy of wearing masks must be mandatory for all, not optional.
2. To protect workers lives, the company must ensure there is 6 feet of distance in all departments and production lines. The company should make changes to achieve this goal such as alternating work to ensure proper spacing or additional shifts. The six feet standard is critical to avoid the spread of covid-19.
3. Temporary workers must be required to wear masks and should have access to any workplace covid-19 trainings and protections, as well as permanent workers. There is a constant movement of temporary workers who leave and are replaced with others. The company should expediate and incentivize workers shifting from temporary to permanent to limit the exposure and spread of the virus.
4. Workers want to be informed if a co-worker in a department tested positive with a case of coronavirus (without having to release the name) so co-workers can self-quarantine for 14 days and protect their families to ensure they are not sick or exposing others. At this time, the company is not informing workers about positive cases and not informing all workers who were exposed and would have to go into quarantine. The company has not sought the input of the chair of the joint safety committee to help identify who was exposed and other co-workers have had to inform other co-workers of positive cases and potential exposure.
5. The company must ensure that all workers are immediately tested for covid-19 for possible exposure.
6. Workers coming into work should be checked for fever and questions related to their health to help identify who is sick and should not be coming in to work.

7. The company should be shut down and sanitized. On March 25th when the Briggs plant on Burleigh was shut down because a worker that tested positive on line 3, workers came back on March 30th and witnessed that the plant had not been properly sanitized.
8. It is important to let workers have access to paid sick says for those that are sick, those that have tested positive for COVID-19 or are forced to self-quarantine or exhibiting symptoms. First, the company must ensure that they inform workers clearly of their policies and procedures for accessing paid sick days during this pandemic. Secondly the short-term disability payment of \$375 a week is inadequate to address people's financials needs and forces workers to come to work sick. Thirdly, workers should not lose points when they need to take a sick day, and this information should also be available in a clear policy to workers.
9. Briggs should strongly enforce their policies of non- retaliation or penalties for workers who express concerns about their safety to contain the spread of the coronavirus and save lives.

These demands align with guidance issued by OSHA and the CDC on how to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure workers safety on the job. Specifically, Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

We ask that you schedule a phone meeting as soon as possible to address these concerns by contacting my Executive Assistant Miriam Levie at miriam@vdlf.org or (414) 704-8375.

We trust that given the urgency of the situation you will take immediate steps to address this matter and to honor the passing of Michael Jackson.

Sincerely,



Christine Neumann-Ortiz, (she/her/hers) Executive Director Voces de la Frontera
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Cc:

Secretary of Health Andrea Palm, Wisconsin State Health & Human Services
OSHA Milwaukee Area Office
Governor Tony Evers
Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes
State Attorney General Josh Kaul
Milwaukee County Executive Crowley
USW District 2