



ACTIVIST ALERT

RMTU & COVID 19

We are all working through a constantly changing and ever developing situation with COVID 19. The Government has advised that Public Transport and Freight Supply Chains are essential services during the war against Covid 19 and port and rail workers have a vital role to play in maintaining our society at this time.

We want all members to know that your union will continue do what it takes so we can all stay safe and continue do the important work that will keep our whanau and communities together. We are all in daily and hourly contact with employers discussing management plans for the virus. We believe that we all must fight the virus and maintain secure employment for members. This is essential as we will eventually come out the other side of this pandemic and transport supply chain workers will be key to getting society and our economy working again. Through all of this we will continue to provide support and advice to members and delegates as we all work through this unprecedented situation.

Last week our National Management Committee resolved to strongly discourage any meetings of more than ten people in any one place. We strongly advise and urge all members, their families and friends to follow Ministry of Health guidelines around physical distancing, and where necessary, isolation. Remember that isolation does not mean we stop communicating with each other. The physical distancing advice can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Union Staff are working from home from Tuesday 24 March. Delegates and members will be able to contact staff by telephone and e-mail as normal as all staff are set up for working from home.

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Central Regional Organiser: Todd Valster tvalster@rmtunion.org.nz 027 445 4691

South Island Regional Organiser: John Kerr jkerr@rmtunion.org.nz 027 246 4941 (In isolation until circa 2nd April)

Union members may have many questions from time to time as the situation develops in the days and weeks to come. As always, your first option if you need assistance or advice should be to approach your site delegate and/or health and safety rep. If you, your site delegate or health and safety rep needs further advice or support be assured that Union staff are on hand by email or cell phone to provide it.

Our Union branch officers, delegates and health and safety reps are passionate, experienced, trained and we have robust communication systems in place.

At times like this the value of our solidarity and unity is more important than ever. As our Prime Minister says, we all need to be kinder and look after each other at this time.

Wayne Butson
General Secretary