

Negotiations UPDATE

Eight (8) Days Before Strike, Union Shows No Sense of Urgency

At this point in our 2016 negotiations with CWA and without a looming strike, our hospitals and the union were bargaining nearly around the clock. With eight (8) days to go before the strike, union leaders are leaving negotiations early and questioning whether we need to bargain through this coming weekend. They are showing no sense of urgency. We have made it clear that we are ready and available to negotiate but they must work with us to find more common or middle ground. We remain \$113 million apart. We are hopeful we will settle 2021 negotiations without a strike but we will be prepared if CWA has other plans.

Strike Information

CWA Local 1133 is threatening to strike at Mercy Hospital beginning at 6 a.m. on October 1. The hospital will not pay striking associates and they will not be permitted to cross the picket line during the strike.

CWA has said the strike would be for an “indefinite” period, meaning it does not have a planned end date once the strike begins. According to CWA,¹ its Membership Relief Fund provides strike benefits to members who perform strike duty responsibilities such as picketing according to the following schedule:

Strike Days	Benefit
Day 1-14	No benefit
After Day 15	\$300 per week
After Day 29	\$400 per week

The union also is distributing information to hospital associates about how to apply for unemployment benefits. Based on this information, Local 1133-represented Mercy Hospital associates may want to expect at least two weeks of lost income if the union strikes. The union has the ability to withdraw its 10-day notice before its planned October 1 strike begins.

Your Rights

Associates have the legal right to tell CWA how they feel if they don't want to go on strike and prefer that CWA settles negotiations with Catholic Health hospitals without a strike. Associates can share their views with CWA Local 1133 leadership at (716) 828-1133.

Because it's important to have the facts regarding bargaining, we will share regular *Negotiations Updates* with you. You may visit www.chsbuffalo.org/negotiations at any time for the latest news and information related to bargaining and to review copies of these updates and other FAQs.

¹ <https://www.safestaffingbuffalo.org/strike-frequently-asked-questions>.