



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO-NESDIS gets Sanitizing Supply Donation for Employees

"Take care of the people and they will take care of the mission."

(May 6, 2020) NWSEO NESDIS Regional Chair Hugh Sharkey and several Stewards have met with NESDIS management on several occasions to exchange ideas and propose needed improvements to mitigate the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on employees. At some offices in NESDIS, insufficient supplies have been an issue for employees who are already challenged by social distancing requirements in their operations areas.

In the interest of promoting the safety of employees, Mr. Sharkey sought and obtained a generous donation of hand sanitizers from Barton Brands Distillery in Baltimore, MD for all NESDIS employees. Many thanks to Barton Brands Distillery for their support of our employees. Employees in these units are recognized as Critical Infrastructure and emergency personnel.

According to Chairperson Sharkey: *"It is important to stay safe, and keep the mission going. You are needed today, tomorrow and in the future."*

NWSEO representatives have also discussed with NESDIS management on following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, to include taking employees' temperature every day prior to their shift. In a case where an employee's temperature reads at or above 100.4 degrees, the employee should report it to their supervisor immediately and will be sent home. The employee will be required to be cleared to return to work by a doctor or a public health official.

The importance of Management communicating how the common areas are cleaned and by whom was also discussed and Management assured NWSEO that more frequent and thorough cleanings would be routinely completed.

In addition, NESDIS Management stated they created a *telework plus designation instead of 50% telework*. This designation allows Engineering, IT and support team staff at Suitland, MD to telework more and come in a few days per week for a few hours to ensure mission systems are secure, check system status and perform any task unable to be done from home.

No one cares more for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) employees than NOAA employees.

No one works harder for NOAA employees than NOAA employees.

We are NOAA employees. We are NWSEO.