In a teleconference meeting held today, March 19, between NUHW stewards, union representatives, and management, we discussed members’ concerns about some of CPMC’s practices and policies in regard to COVID-19. We are concerned about our own safety, as well as the safety of our patients and our families.

FOLLOW-UP CALL NEXT TUESDAY
At the end of the call we scheduled a follow up call for next Tuesday, March 24, to hear management’s responses to our questions. We will keep our members informed of what we learn.

PAID FURLoughs/Testing/Masks
Management told us during the call that any employees exposed to the virus are furloughed with pay. We want to make sure that in all instances our members are paid.

In addition, we want to understand the circumstances under which our members are tested for the virus. Currently, only when a physician authorizes a test will CPMC administer the test.

We asked that workers be provided with the appropriate equipment (e.g., masks, gloves, etc.) to do their work. EVS workers, Cooks, Tray Passers, Cashiers and other workers are demanding to work in a safe environment.

Labor Pool
To address some of the departments especially hard hit by the lack of work, such as Surgery and SPD, CPMC has created a “Labor Pool” to offer work to those employees who otherwise might be cancelled. We reminded them of the lack of staff on nursing floors and urged that hospital attendants/PCAs should never be cancelled or put to work elsewhere other than in nursing units. We also made it clear that any work outside one’s normal duties should be voluntary. Employees are willing to accept the work should receive appropriate training.

PAC Campus
Finally, we asked what CPMC has planned for the short-term for the PAC Campus.

We expect better. Management’s answers to our questions were less than acceptable. We expect much more concrete responses at our meeting next Tuesday.