



March 13, 2020

RE: COVID-19 and Animation Guild Members Working From Home

Dear Labor Relations Contacts from our Partner Studios,

As we are all aware, COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The spread of the virus in the United States has proven difficult to track due to the lack of test kits, but globally we are seeing reports that the virus may spread quickly through a community. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the "spread from person-to-person is most likely among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread."

Countries are closing their borders to prevent the virus from spreading. Both the California Governor and Los Angeles Mayor have encouraged the closure of venues and spaces that accommodate groups of as few as 50 people. Theme parks, concerts, sporting events, and conventions have decided to put the well-being of their participants ahead of their events and profits.

Our mutual interests have always found us balancing the needs of our membership with your needs to produce animated content. During our triennial discussions over our collective agreement, we have agreed that the safety of our members is of paramount importance to both of us.

In that light, the Animation Guild strongly urges you to take the health and well-being of our members into consideration by enacting policies and providing tools and the means to allow our members to continue their important work away from your studios. This would keep your productions on schedule and keep our members as safe as possible during this difficult time.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter and stand ready to assist in whatever capacity the Union is able.

Steven Kaplan
Business Representative



IATSE LOCAL 839

1105 North Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505-2528
T 818 845.7500 F 818 843.0300

www.animationguild.org