

To: All Trenton Metro Area Local Members,

Under the new stimulus bill called the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) there was new leave for federal employees added called Emergency Federal Employee Leave (EFEL). Postal employees qualify for this leave. Effective March 12, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (Act) provides employees with up to 600 hours of paid Emergency Federal Employee Leave (EFEL). This leave is available to employees beginning on March 12, 2021, and continuing through September 30, 2021—or until the funding established in the Emergency Federal Employee Leave Fund (Fund) for reimbursement is exhausted. The leave is available to eligible employees who are unable to work due to one of eight qualifying reasons on the chart below.

Emergency Federal Employee Leave
Qualifying Reasons
<p>An employee is entitled to take EFEL related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work because the employee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.is caring for an individual who is subject to such an order as in (1) or has been so advised as in (2).is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis. <p>is caring for the employee's son or daughter if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, requires or makes optional a virtual learning instruction model, requires or makes optional a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning instruction models, or if the child care provider of the son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">is experiencing any other substantially similar condition. <p>is caring for a family member with a mental or physical disability or who is 55 years of age or older and incapable of self-care, without regard to whether another individual other than the employee is available to care for such family member, if the place of care for such family member is closed or the direct care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">is obtaining immunization (vaccination) related to COVID-19 or is recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.
Leave Eligibility
<p>All career and non-career employees, regardless of tenure, are immediately eligible for EFEL.</p> <p>Full-time Employees can receive up to 600 hours of paid EFEL, capped at \$2,800 per pay period.</p> <p>Part-time Employees can receive up to the proportional equivalent of 600 hours, capped at a proportional equivalent of \$2,800 per pay period</p>
Other Considerations
<p>EFEL does not count as creditable service toward an employee's retirement benefits.</p> <p>Employees cannot contribute to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) while on EFEL.</p>

As new information is provided I will update all the members on the website and Union Bulletin Boards.

In Solidarity,

Steven Duckworth
President, Trenton Metro Area Local