

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 23, 2020) – Port Authority of Allegheny County has received confirmation that a maintenance employee who works at its West Mifflin garage has tested positive for COVID-19. This brings the total number of cases to nine Port Authority employees, including five who work in maintenance at this location.

The employee last worked on Monday, April 20, 2020, and has been at home in quarantine since then.

After consulting with union leadership, Port Authority has decided to further reduce the number of maintenance employees working during each shift and will once again bring in a contractor to clean and disinfect the facility.

Beginning Sunday, all employees at this location will have their temperatures taken before starting their shift. Any employee with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home, with pay.

The Authority is continuing to work with public health officials to implement any additional recommendations and will also reinforce with all employees recommended hygiene protocols and social distancing guidelines.

“First and foremost, on behalf of the Board and all of our employees, we wish our coworkers a speedy recovery,” said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman. “We are obviously very concerned about the recent spate of cases at West Mifflin and are working with union leadership to do everything we can to ensure no one else falls ill.”

Port Authority has sought to minimize the spread of the virus by disinfecting vehicles more frequently, promoting social distancing, having customers board from the back doors, limiting the number of passengers on vehicles, and asking riders to cover their faces when riding.

The Authority has more than 2,600 employees, including 1,300 operators and 800 mechanics. As of today, Port Authority had 85 employees being held out of work pending COVID-19 testing. Forty-nine employees have returned to work since testing negative.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Adam Brandolph

412-770-7150

abrandolph@portauthority.org