

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (May 1, 2020) - Port Authority continues to take extra precautions and increased cleaning at its West Mifflin garage, where a 13th Port Authority employee has tested positive for COVID-19.

The employee last worked on Sunday, April 26, and has since been in self-quarantine.

This is the eleventh case at the West Mifflin garage and the ninth involving a maintenance employee at this location.

Since this employee was in the facility since the last time the building was deep cleaned, the garage will again be deep cleaned by an outside company tomorrow, Saturday, May 2.

“Now, more than ever, people need access to reliable public transportation,” said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman. “We will continue to provide reliable public transit to the thousands of people who rely on us as long as we can continue to do so safely.”

The West Mifflin garage provides service to nearly 15,000 riders a day to several communities in the southwestern part of Allegheny County. Riders in these neighborhoods are essential workers commuting to jobs in Squirrel Hill, Oakland and downtown Pittsburgh.

In addition to steps that Port Authority has been taken to minimize the spread of the virus, every bus leaving and returning to the West Mifflin garage will be sanitized before any other employee touches it.

Port Authority safety officials are also taking additional steps, such as contact tracing, to focus on the area primarily affected. Several other steps have been taken in recent weeks to curtail the spread at this location and protect employees, including:

- The entire West Mifflin garage has been deep cleaned and sanitized twice in the last two weeks. It will again be deep cleaned on Saturday morning.
- Employees’ temperatures have been taken as they arrive at the garage since last Sunday. Any employee with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit would be sent home, with pay, until cleared to return to work by their medical provider.
- All Port Authority vehicles, from all garages, have been disinfected daily for weeks to help minimize the spread of the virus.
- All Port Authority facilities are cleaned and disinfected on all three shifts.
- The Authority has encouraged those who don’t have to travel to stay home, and for those who must ride, to social distance, wear masks and board from the rear doors.

Port Authority also 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 Thursday, Port Authority had 98 employees off work awaiting COVID-19 testing, 52 employees who have returned to work since testing negative and one employee has returned to work after having previously tested positive.

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