

CURRENTS

3 | 23 | 2020

A weekly publication of Newport News Shipbuilding



Shipbuilders disinfect railings and turnstiles at the 37th Street gate. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

Crews Work to Clean and Sanitize NNS

Cleaners are working around the clock to sanitize high-traffic areas across Newport News Shipbuilding to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Duties include disinfecting turnstiles, railings, elevators and common areas multiple times a day.

“We’re stepping up cleaning efforts as a proactive approach to preventing the spread of Coronavirus,” said **David Crews**, a general foreman. “My team sprays the turnstiles and handrails in the morning, at lunchtime and again at night.”

Maynard Brinkley is a cleaner who said he comes in an hour early and stays six hours late to disinfect. “It’s nice to know that you are doing something to help your fellow shipbuilders out,” he said.

“They are working day and night to help limit the exposure to employees,” said **Julia Jones**, vice president of Manufacturing and Facilities. “I just want to simply say thank you for the hard work. Thank you for keeping us all safe.”

CONTINUED ON PG 2

NOTICE

Due to the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, *Currents* will be published twice per week moving forward.

Shipbuilder Tests Positive for COVID-19

In a message to shipbuilders on Monday, NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** confirmed that an employee who works in Bldg. 600 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is recovering in quarantine.

“The individual self-reported to us today, following a positive diagnosis over the weekend. We appreciate that this shipbuilder put the health and welfare of their teammates first by alerting their supervisor as soon as they tested positive. This allowed us to execute our prepared plan as soon as we were notified,” Boykin wrote.

She said leaders met with the employees who work near the individual or who came into close contact with the individual. Those employees are being advised to call the clinic for additional guidance. In addition, communal eating areas in Bldg. 600 are restricted.

To read the entire message and to see all COVID-19-related communications, visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

NNS President: Our Work is Mission Essential

Newport News Shipbuilding President **Jennifer Boykin** has sent several communications to employees in recent days regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19). A March 20 video message explained why the company’s work is essential to national security. “While today’s national emergency is being fought with health care workers and quarantines, our ships and sailors could be on the front lines tomorrow,” she said.

For Coronavirus and Operations Information

nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411

Employee Information Phone Line

1-877-871-2058

Human Resources and Labor Relations Hotline

1-844-243-8749

Crews Work to Clean and Sanitize NNS

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

In shops, cubicles and on the deckplate, employees are taking initiative to clean their work areas by using disinfectant made from shipyard resources. A team recently filled spray bottles with cleaner and distributed them to others across the yard.

“Shipbuilders can pick up the spray bottles at the Powerhouse to use in their work

areas. If they run out of cleaner, they can bring them back and we will refill them,” said **Valerie Bentley**, manager of facilities maintenance. “We’re asking everyone to do their part.”

Watch a video on MyNNS to learn more about cleaning efforts and practicing good hygiene at work and at home.

Coronavirus Threat Prompts Changes for NNS Food Services

To help combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Newport News Shipbuilding Food Service Operations is making changes.

Food Service vendor trucks are not allowed on NNS property until further notice. Aramark Services is providing limited options – to include prepackaged and/or sealed meals, snacks and bottled or canned beverages – during first shift only through designated cafes and canteens. No made-to-order meals will be available at any NNS service locations until further notice.

“We know this is an inconvenience, but the health and safety of NNS employees, guests, their families and the community is paramount,” said **Dwain Jenkins Sr.**, manager of Food Service Operations.

See the Distribution A memo for a list of cafés, canteens and other service locations that are open for breakfast and/or lunch.

Shipbuilders on all shifts can still use vending machines, reclaimed spaces and micro markets. For more information, visit the Food Service website on MyNNS.

NNS Medical Director Talks COVID-19

Dr. **Steve Apostoles**, Newport News Shipbuilding’s medical director, recently sat down to answer questions about the company’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) response. Watch the interview on MyNNS.

To learn more about typical symptoms associated with COVID-19 and how they compare with the common cold, the flu and seasonal allergies, visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

Support the Community

Newport News Shipbuilding employees are encouraged to support community Coronavirus (COVID-19) relief efforts led by United Way of the Virginia Peninsula and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Donations can be made online via the Newport News Gives platform (nns.YourCause.com). Click on “Support Local Efforts” and add the optional designation: “To support the fundraising efforts of COVID-19 relief.”

The American Red Cross is facing severe blood shortages as drives across the country have been canceled due to COVID-19. Scheduled blood drives at NNS have not been canceled.

Information for High-Risk Employees

Susan Jacobs, vice president of Human Resources and Administration, sent a message to shipbuilders March 21 with information for individuals at higher risk for severe illness from Coronavirus (COVID-19). To read Jacobs’ message and see other employee resources, visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

HII Scholarship Fund Application Deadline Extended

As a result of disruptions caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Huntington Ingalls Industries Scholarship Fund’s application deadline for the 2020-2021 school year has been extended to May 18.

Up to 100 new scholarships will be awarded this year. Individual award amounts will range from \$1,500 annually for selected students enrolled in a two-year college program to \$3,000 per year for selected students enrolled in a four-year program. The fund also awards scholarships of up to \$3,000 toward pre-K school readiness education costs.

Children of all HII employees are eligible to apply, with the exception of children of senior executives and those employees who have been with the company for less than two years.

Visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-readiness for the school readiness scholarship. Visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-scholarship for the post-secondary school scholarship.

Spring Night School Term Canceled

Newport News Shipbuilding’s Night School Program has canceled its spring term, including classes at Thomas Nelson Community College.

The program will hold spring applications for the summer term. For more information, contact Night School Administrator **Sherry Morgan** (O22) via email or at 688-8608.

Tips for Employees Working From Home

Newport News Shipbuilding continues to monitor the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. To encourage social distancing, employees who can work from home are encouraged to do so, and leaders across the company are encouraged to implement actions that maximize their employees’ ability to work remotely.

A list of frequently asked questions about working from home is available on MyNNS. To work remotely, laptop users should submit a computer user access system (CUAS) request, which must be approved by their manager. See more tips for working from home and cyber hygiene reminders on the Huntington Ingalls Industries website.