



**UA LOCAL 149**  
Plumbers and Pipefitters



**PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

## Over the last 8 months, we have all faced unprecedented challenges and been forced to change the way we work and live.

For as difficult as COVID-19 has made our everyday lives, in many ways it has made both UA Local 149 and the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association of Central Illinois even stronger.

As essential workers, you have shown up to work every day, even if we are all doing our jobs a little differently than before. What isn't different is the continuing commitment we share in ensuring that your health and safety remain a top priority.

Unfortunately, as this pandemic continues and winter months set in, we know that the challenges we face will only increase. COVID-19 is once again skyrocketing across the country and will continue to impact our workforce. With no ability to work from home, our plumbers, steamfitters, pipefitters, welders, refrigeration techs and HVAC service techs will remain instrumental in keeping our economy strong.

Some unions have already been decimated by this pandemic, with projects stopped, workers laid off and many workers forced to stay home after being exposed to the virus.

Local 149 and the Contractors Association have spent these months working together to minimize the impact on our workers and the ability to do our jobs. While we have certainly had our differences over the years, we share the belief that your health and safety – and that of our families and community – is what is most important right now.

We wanted to provide you with just some of the ways we are keeping that a priority.

**Together, we will get through this.**

A white ink signature of Matt Kelly, written in a cursive style.

Matt Kelly  
Business Manager  
Local 149

A white ink signature of John Matthews, written in a cursive style.

John Matthews  
Association President  
PHCCA

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Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Local 149 and the Contractors Association have worked closely to ensure:

- Work has continued uninterrupted
- Pay has increased
- Paid family and medical leave protections have expanded
- Health insurance and access to high-quality care has remained strong
- Demand for union labor has strengthened

Together, we are taking action to keep you safe at work and leading the way in setting standards for others by:

- Meeting and communicating more often
- Putting an even greater focus on safety
- Sharing ideas to improve the way we work
- Providing you with relevant updates if there is a workplace outbreak

Local 149 is committed to ensuring your voice is heard and that you remain entitled to fundamental protections that include:

- Receiving prompt notification of any COVID-19 exposure in your workplace
- The right to speak out about concerns or workplace hazards
- Protecting your additional COVID-related, paid sick leave
- Enhanced workplace safety
- A voice in any proposed steps needed to save jobs

The Contractors Association is committed to doing what good employers have always done: put the health, safety and welfare of employees first by providing:

- Any necessary Personal Protective Equipment
- Workplaces where frequently-touched surfaces are routinely cleaned and disinfected
- Needed occupational safety and health supplies, including handwashing stations, sanitizer and disposable disinfecting wipes
- Encouragement for workers to stay home if they are sick

**Together, we will emerge even stronger than before.**