



National Association of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

March 26, 2020

Governor Charles Baker
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
Boston MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

I am writing to request that you order the closure of all branches of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Rather than being limited to core services, these branches are conducting business as usual with disastrous consequences.

Today, the Fall River branch was “locked down” and then closed due to potential COVID-19 exposure. Massive crowds are arriving at ten locations due, in part, to the public’s lack of awareness of the March 23rd Emergency Order limiting business to essential services only, the extension of time for license renewals and the like, and the opportunities to use online resources. Rather than being limited to core services, these branches are conducting business as usual. The crowds themselves are in violation of the social distancing requirement in the Governor’s March 23rd Emergency Order limiting groups to 10 or less, which may lead to extensive numbers of people being exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

NAGE has continually notified the designated contacts at MassDOT, as well as the RMV, of the ongoing problems in the operating branches. The lack of personal protective equipment, in many cases the prohibition of RMV staff wearing personal protective gear, the lack of crowd control, the continual operations of all non-essential work, management’s pressure on NAGE members to come to work and to produce doctor’s notes if they state they are ill, and unanswered incidents of illness in the RMV branches reported by members, as well as other matters, endanger the health of not just our members but the public as well.

We may be a week to ten days behind New York with respect to the trajectory of the COVID-19 virus hitting Boston. As you know, New York is suffering devastating losses in human life and the Covid-19 virus may not have peaked there yet. Yesterday, Governor Cuomo closed the Department of Motor Vehicles in New York amid this crisis. We ask that you take decisive action now and close all RMV branches in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David J. Holway'.

David J. Holway
NAGE National President