**EBASE statement on COVID-19**

The spread of COVID-19 reminds us of the importance of basic human rights for all people, including access to affordable healthcare and paid sick days, which enable us to take care of ourselves and our families while also protecting public health.

All employers must include all employees - including service workers and subcontracted workers - in their responses to COVID-19. Many workers who are at most risk of contracting COVID-19 do not have the option to work from home: janitors, hotel housekeepers, dishwashers, warehouse workers, first responders, garbage collectors, healthcare workers. Employers must provide access to training and equipment to keep these workers safe.

All workers need to be able to stay home when we are sick or when our family members need care – without loss of pay or fear of losing their jobs.

* In Oakland, all workers are covered under Oakland’s Paid Sick Day law to care for themselves, a family member or another designated individual.
* Oakland's Paid Sick Leave ordinance incorporates changes made to California law after the passage of AB 5. Therefore, app-based or "gig" workers would also qualify for coverage under the law to both accrue and use sick leave.
* Throughout California, employees have access to [Paid Sick Days under statewide law.](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm)

Additionally, workers who lose hours due to reductions in operations or business shutdowns can file for [CA unemployment insurance though the CA Economic Development Department.](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)

Beyond these workplace supports, we demand that:

* Vaccines, when available, be provided free of charge;
* Increased sanitation services be provided to homeless encampments;
* Moratoriums on evictions;
* All emergency efforts are communicated in multiple languages;
* Cities defend their sanctuary status and refuse to allow ICE and Border Patrol officers into hospitals and public buildings;
* Local elected leaders call on the federal government to suspend ICE raids so that vulnerable patients won’t be deterred from seeking help;
* Federal aid be provided to cover the additional expenses states, cities and counties will incur