

# Port Authority

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 12, 2022)** - In addition to the normal call-offs that would be expected as a result of the winter storm and the St. Patrick's Day parade, a significant number of Port Authority employees called off from work today in an apparent protest of the agency's vaccine requirement going into effect on Tuesday.

"First and foremost, I want to thank the employees who reported to work today despite the overnight snowstorm and the St. Patrick's Day parade, both of which put strains on our system and create difficult working conditions. Your commitment ensured the busways were clear, vehicles were running, and our rail lines were accessible for a safe commute," said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman.

"I understand that our union employees want to stand in solidarity with their coworkers, but I'm encouraging those employees who called off today to get back to work. The people of Allegheny County rely on our services too much for ATU Local 85 to play these games.

"The union had the opportunity to challenge the vaccine requirement in court and lost. Rather than continuing to fight, ATU Local 85 leadership should encourage its remaining unvaccinated members to get vaccinated and join the over 80% of employees who have done so for the health, safety, and welfare of our entire workforce and the riders we serve."

As we warned on Friday, service disruptions are expected to continue through the next couple of weeks while employees in violation of the agency's vaccine policy participate in disciplinary hearings to address their non-compliance of the requirement. As a result, riders may need to find alternative methods of transportation or adjust their travel plans.

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