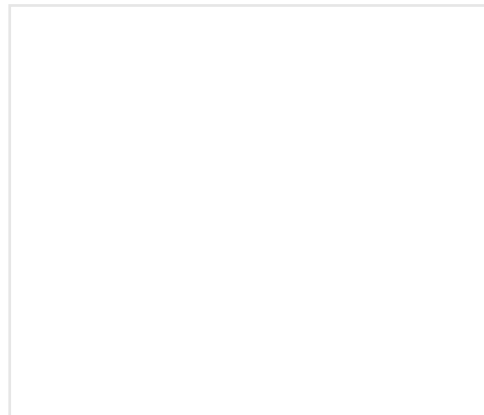


Kentucky GOP legislators try to block abortion clinics from operating amid coronavirus pandemic

Kentucky AG Daniel Cameron is asking that abortions be considered elective procedures, which the governor called to stop during this state of emergency.

KENTUCKY, USA — Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron is trying to block abortions in the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed an executive order banning nonessential procedures, including abortions, during the pandemic. A federal appeals court in Texas confirmed the order on Tuesday, ruling that it can enforce a ban on abortions. AG Cameron is working to do the same.



Right now, EMW Women’s Surgical Center in Louisville is still open to performing abortions. It’s the only abortion provider in the state.

In a press conference, Governor Andy Beshear called on medical professionals to stop any elective medical procedures. He left the decision up to medical providers to determine what counts as elective.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron considers abortions elective.

“Abortion providers should join the thousands of other medical professionals across the state in calling elective procedures, unless the life of the mother is at risk, to protect the health of their patients and

the spread of the coronavirus,” Cameron said in a statement.

He says the reason is to follow social distancing protocols and conserve medical supplies.

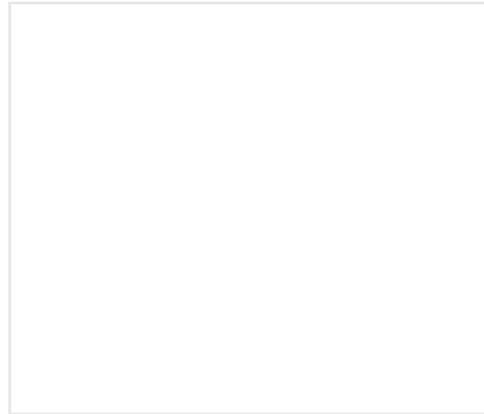
“We’re proud of our GOP legislators continuing to work to address the critical issues facing our st this crisis – like passing much-needed coronavirus relief, working on a fiscally responsible budget more,” Republican Party of Kentucky spokesperson Mike Lonergan said.

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Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb [issued an executive order](#) that, among other things, moved to block abortions for the same reason. However, Kentucky ACLU Staff Attorney Heather Gatnarek says such aren’t a concern when it comes to abortions.

“Those procedures don’t require hardly any PPE. A medication abortion is strictly a physician handing a pill to a patient,” Gatnarek said.

Cameron called on the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander that abortion providers are violating the governor’s executive order.



That would then give Cameron the ability to take action against abortion providers.

We reached out to Friedlander’s office with no response.

However, a bill currently moving through the Senate would allow Cameron to sidestep the CHFS.

House Bill 451 would let Cameron act as a special prosecutor of abortion laws. An amendment a week would also prohibit abortion facilities from calling abortions urgent procedures during this emergency.

“I mean...it is pretty obvious to me is what the general assembly is doing here is using this pander way to get what they’ve wanted for the past few years, which is a ban on abortion,” Gatnarek said

The bill passed through a senate committee last week.

We reached out to House Bill 451’s primary sponsors and did not get a response from either.



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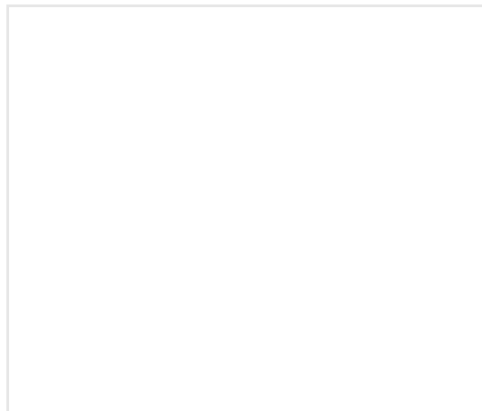
Video: WHAS11

GE Appliances gives employees pay incentive, leave of absence amid COVID outbreak

The company will provide a \$2 per hour incentive through the month of /

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — GE Appliances has provided a \$2 per hour pay incentive to hourly production employees and service technicians through the end of April, the company and local union president Driskell announced.

The incentive went into effect April 6 and there will be a discussion at the end of April for a possible extension. GE Appliances will also grant a leave of absence to anyone with underlying health, child or eldercare issues through the same time, Driskell said in a letter to union members. Members can be on unemployment during that time.



The company said it has also implemented no-touch temperature screening, installed barriers between work stations, changed production lines to help social distance and provided handwashing or sanitizer stations at each plant.

"Given that the Health Department has deemed Appliance Park to be within standards to operate and the Governor has deemed us to be an 'essential business,' we had to turn our efforts to minimizing risk with underlying health issues, childcare, and eldercare issues as well as a monetary gain for those that don't fall within the categories listed," Driskell said.

GE said health professionals are available at every facility and through telemedicine. The company reports that 80% of salaried employees and 100% of customer support employees are working from home.

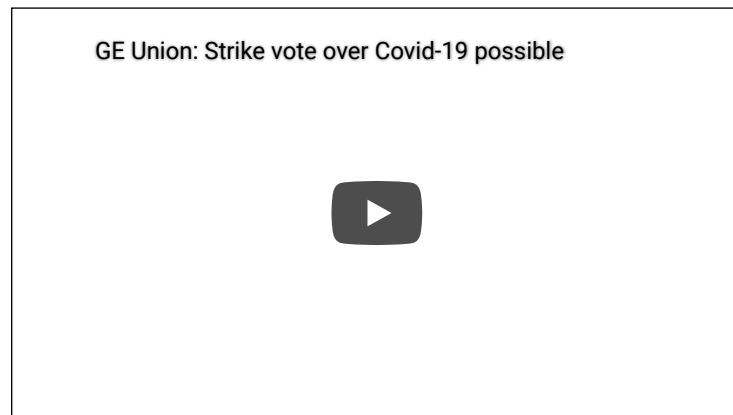
The company said a team focused on COVID-19 meets multiple times a day to review procedures and that employees are continuously working on improvements to help provide a safe work environment.

Appliance Park employees previously told WHAS11 they feared they would contract the virus after the building shut down for 24 hours due to a presumed but unconfirmed case of COVID-19.

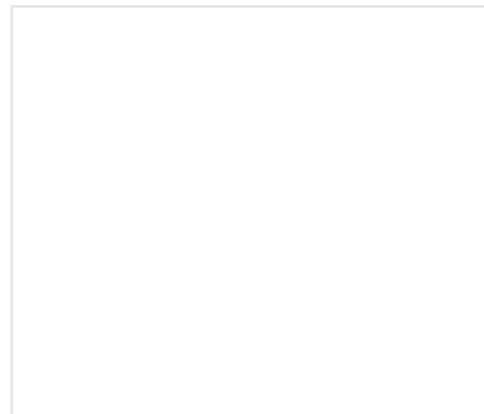
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