

City of Edmonton Update | March 17, 2020

Email from Adam Laughlin, Interim City Manager – sent to all City employees and respective unions

I am sharing important information today about new supports for staff, new decisions from the Executive Leadership Team and Council, and a declaration by the Government of Alberta.

NEW DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND INFORMATION

Province Declares Public Health State of Emergency

Alberta [declared](#) a state of emergency under the [Public Health Act](#). Effective today, all events over 50 people are to be cancelled; attendance at rec centres, casinos, bingo halls, bars, theatres and other facilities is prohibited; and sit-down restaurants can only remain open with lower capacity.

Council calls special meeting

A special Emergency Advisory Committee meeting has been called for [Thursday morning](#). In accordance with social distancing practices, people are encouraged to watch the proceedings [online](#).

Emergency Operations Centre activated

The Mayor announced at an afternoon [news conference](#) that the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated today. Staff are being deployed now, and will work tonight. The EOC focuses on specific operational responses to the pandemic, while the COVID-19 Task Team continues to focus on the broader strategic opportunities and challenges it brings.

Transit

Today we held a [news conference](#) and issued a [news release](#) to announce that we have adjusted a number of City transit services to reflect the constantly-changing circumstances. Yesterday we announced that transit service would be adjusted to Saturday service. We chose this approach, because a widespread "adjustment" would be difficult to implement quickly, and would be difficult to relay to passengers. Saturday schedules already exist, and passengers know what they are. While ridership is down nearly 50% across the system, there were pinch points. We quickly learned that some routes remain nearly as popular as before. This wasn't what we wanted riders to experience and we responded quickly.

We are working on the right balance -- the right number of buses on the road, the right number of healthy transit operators on the job both today and for the long term, and the right amount of space for passengers to separate themselves safely. Staff in Edmonton Transit Service adjusted their plan: more monitoring, more buses, more flexibility. If needed, other adjustments will follow day by day.

A **huge** thank you to all the staff in Edmonton Transit Service who reviewed schedules, called in operators, adjusted plans, and responded quickly to make the afternoon commute much smoother.

All employees eligible for Homewood Health (our Employee Assistance Program), service moves to telephone-based

Effectively immediately, Homewood Health, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, has suspended all face-to-face counselling and is moving to implement telephonic counselling services.

The City is also expanding free and confidential counselling services to now include **all employees (permanent/provisional/temporary/probationary)** and their families (e.g. spouses, children, and/ or

dependents). You can access these services by calling Homewood Health at 1-800-663-1142. An FAQ will be online shortly.

If you have any additional questions or are experiencing difficulty in accessing these supports please contact Lacey Ranslam 780-496-5449 or John Dowds at 780-496-7863.

COVID-19 Testing FAQ

We've developed a new [COVID-19 testing FAQ](#) for supervisors included in the Employee Guide. It includes information and processes on what to do for both positive and negative testing of employees.

Public information

The City's public information about the COVID response is online at edmonton.ca/covid-19. I strongly encourage anyone with questions to review those materials.

Supervisors, please print this email ([attached as a PDF](#)) for those staff who do not have access to a computer. The best source of information remains the [Employee Guide](#), now version 10. (Remember to hit refresh).

WHAT'S COMING

We are in frequent contact with Alberta Health Services and the Government of Alberta. As circumstances change significantly, I will relay updates.

COVID-19 TASK TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

Chair: David Aitken, Branch Manager - Community Standards and Neighbourhoods

Citizen Services

Roger Jevne, Branch Manager - Community and Recreation Facilities

Bradley Hoekstra, Acting Fire Chief - Edmonton Fire Rescue Services

City Operations

Eddie Robar, Branch Manager - Edmonton Transit Service

Shona Lizzi, Director - Facility Maintenance Services

Communications and Engagement

Mary Sturgeon, Branch Manager - Reputation and Brand

Geoff Driscoll, Communication Manager - Crisis and Issues

Anthony Toderian, Senior Communications Advisor

Employee Services

Denis Jubinville, Branch Manager - Employee Relations and Compensation

Mircea Fagarasanu, Branch Manager - Workplace Safety and Employee Health

Christie Pelletier, Director - Corporate Safety and Health Services

Financial and Corporate Services

Roxanne Kits, Branch Manager - Corporate Procurement and Supply Services

Daryl Croft, Acting Branch Manager - Open City and Technology

Hani Mansi, Chief Information Security Officer - Open City and Technology

Mike Fryer, Director, Infrastructure, Facilities and Workplace Support - Open City and Technology

Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
Kim Petrin, Branch Manager - Development Services

Office of the City Manager
Aileen Giesbrecht, City Clerk - Office of the City Clerk
Cyndil Taylor, Lawyer - Legal Services
Chelsey Hammett - Office of the City Manager
Rob Squire, Deputy Fire Chief - Office of Emergency Management

Edmonton Public Library
Anna Alfonso, Director - Marketing and Communications

Edmonton Police Service
Dean Hilton, Superintendent - Operational Command Division



Adam Laughlin
Interim City Manager