

City of Edmonton Update | March 18, 2020

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

I am sharing important information today about arrangements for staff from recreation centres, proceedings of the Emergency Advisory Committee, and staff recognition.

NEW DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND INFORMATION

A special message for Rec Centre staff -- on leave with pay until April 11, 2020

This is a very stressful time for those of you who are affected by the temporary closure of recreation centres, leisure centres, attractions and arenas, given that your work is no longer available. Please know that the Executive Leadership Team is considering all options to assist you through this difficult time. For now, I am announcing that leave with pay will be extended to **April 11, 2020**.

During this period of paid leave, it is important that you remain available to be assigned and to commence an alternate work assignment should one become available. For this reason, it is important that you ensure your supervisor has your up-to-date personal contact information (phone numbers, and personal email address) as soon as possible. We will continue to keep you advised as the COVID-19 situation and our plans evolve.

Emergency Advisory Committee update

The Mayor, Councillors, Executive Leadership Team and others participated in today's Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting -- some participants were seated far apart in Council's Chambers, some at the side workstations, and some listened by telephone. The formal presentation was about our decisions to date and the elements required for the declaration of a State of Local Emergency.

Administration recommended, and the EAC (Council) agreed, that a declaration was not needed at this time. The provincial declaration and the existing work of the Task Team and the Emergency Operations Centre equip us with what we need to respond steadily to the COVID-19 public health emergency. If that needs to change, we have the mechanisms to call the EAC together on an hour's notice.

Councillors routinely expressed their appreciation for City staff. They thanked people who are working long hours to support the COVID-19 response, accommodated changes to their jobs and schedules as circumstances change, and continuing to provide regular service.

Transit

I was clear that our strategic decisions about transit service are about preparing us for a lengthy response to the pandemic and are the right ones to keep staff safe and transit running. Staff are working hard listening to customers and their concerns about reduced service. We are monitoring demand for service closely and will adjust, when possible, on a priority basis. We are working to keep customers updated on the information they need via web updates at takeETS.com, equipping our 311 staff with the most up-to-date information, and working with traditional media to get the word out.

To protect our Bus Operators, we have switched to buses with shields and have communicated to customers to stay home if they can and follow AHS hygiene recommendations. All buses and trains coming out of service are being thoroughly cleaned before they are put back into service.

Homewood Health supports for employees

As mentioned yesterday, Homewood Health, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, will be offering free and confidential counselling services to all employees (permanent/provisional/temporary /probationary) and their families (e.g. spouses, children, and/or dependents). You can call Homewood Health directly at 1-800-663-1142 or refer to these [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Thank you!

I want to express a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. Thank you for stepping up and keeping this city running. Thank you for your commitment to keeping yourself and others healthy. Thank you for being

kind to each other and your fellow Edmontonians. I know many of you are working long, stressful hours. Others may have had your workplace closed and you find yourself on leave wanting to help. Many of you are working from home. Whether you are at home, on the road, in the office or on leave, you are helping, contributing and making a difference. Your work and efforts are noticed and today Council also expressed their deep appreciation for each of you and your commitment to serve the people of Edmonton.

I know this is a stressful time for you and your families, which makes the extreme level of professionalism, dedication and compassion you continue to demonstrate daily that much more impressive.

This global pandemic and related public health emergency is unprecedented for all of us and we are working our way through operational changes by the hour with your support. I greatly appreciate your patience and understanding. I am committed to keeping you informed as we all work together to address and overcome these organizational challenges.

Social distancing is not emotional distancing. I know we will continue to reach out and support each other.

Public information

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

Thanks to those staff who asked about sound quality on the video of yesterday's media availability. An updated video is [online here](#).

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