

## City of Edmonton Update | March 23, 2020

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

I am sharing important information today about announcements that have been made to strengthen our COVID-19 responses in Alberta and Edmonton along with new information resources for employees.

### **NEW DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND INFORMATION**

#### **Announcements**

The province of Alberta announced additional measures to support households and employers, including maintaining the education property tax level at 2019 levels, providing property tax assistance with a deferral program, deferring WCB premiums for employers, and introducing a ‘bridge payment’ program to supplement a federal government that will assist those in self isolation.

Alberta’s chief medical officer of health announced [changes](#) to self isolation timelines and the province’s testing approach. A new screening protocol for healthcare workers will be introduced.

Mayor Iveson has a special video message for City Employees.

#### **Closure of Service Centres**

For the safety of Edmontonians and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City of Edmonton is closing a number of in-person services effective Tuesday March 24th and until further notice:

- Edmonton Service Centre located at Edmonton Tower
- City Hall Service Counter
- Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board Front Counter
- Reuse Centre and Ambleside EcoStation

The service counter at the Animal Care & Control Centre will be open for services by appointment only.

Edmontonians are encouraged to access services online. Specific details about service changes can be found at [edmonton.ca/COVID-19](https://edmonton.ca/COVID-19) or by using the 311 app.

#### **Inside Information:**

To protect employees and help prevent the spread of COVID-19, employees should NOT visit Inside Information to get photos taken for Corporate ID Cards. Requests for new hire ID cards or replacement cards for current employees should be emailed to [insideinformation.frontcounter@edmonton.ca](mailto:insideinformation.frontcounter@edmonton.ca). For details visit the Inside Information page on onecity, call 780-944-4311 or email.

#### **Updates to the Employee Guide**

Employee Redeployment - City employees all need to work together to help keep necessary services running during this period. The City may require the redeployment of employees across union jurisdictions and work functions as needs arise. A [Redeployment](#) FAQ document has been added to the guide to help address questions (see page 10).

Banking of EDOs - During this stressful time, we recommend that employees take advantage of their EDOs to do what they enjoy and what makes them well. EDOs provide employees the ability to “unplug” from work, even when working

from home. At this time, we are advising employees that EDOs should not be cancelled or banked unless there is an operational requirement for the employee to work on their EDO. Go [here](#) for more information.

Local State of Emergency - Additional information about what a State of Local Emergency means can be found [here](#).

### **EXPO Centre Opening**

The City of Edmonton, Community and Social Services, Alberta Health Services, Homeward Trust and community partners are working together to create a safe space at the Edmonton EXPO Centre for community members experiencing homelessness.

The Edmonton EXPO Centre will have two purposes: a 24/7 isolation centre which will open this evening, and a day drop-in service from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., 7 days a week, for those without access to housing.

The isolation centre will allow those experiencing homelessness who have been exposed to COVID-19, or have symptoms, to recover and protect others by self-isolating. The drop-in will provide overflow support for facilities that have had to limit their capacity, change hours of operation or close entirely. Homeward Trust is working with the Bissell Centre, Boyle Street Community Services, and several other organizations to operate the drop-in.

The Edmonton EXPO Centre is not currently operating as an overnight shelter for individuals who do not require health services related to COVID-19.

### **Public information**

The City's public information about the COVID response is online at [edmonton.ca/covid-19](https://edmonton.ca/covid-19). I encourage anyone with questions to review those materials. The website is updated frequently.

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 13 (remember to hit refresh).

### **Task Team**

COVID-19 Task Team Membership is found [here](#).

### **WHAT'S COMING**

As we receive updates from Alberta Health or the Government of Alberta, we will share them with you here.



**Adam Laughlin**  
Interim City Manager