

City of Edmonton Update | March 24, 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 for employees.

NEW DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND INFORMATION

Announcements

The chief medical officer of health reminded Albertans that efforts to prevent the spread of the transmission of the virus are not just the responsibility of the government. She stressed that the health and wellbeing of everyone's family, friends, colleagues and neighbours are at stake. It's up to every one of us to obey the public health direction and to take physical distancing requirements seriously.

I announced several City service reductions to protect the health and safety of Edmontonians. Effective immediately:

- All playgrounds will be closed, and start-up procedures for spray park equipment, irrigation systems, drinking and decorative fountains will be delayed until such time as AHS relaxes physical distancing requirements
- The City of Edmonton will increase the monitoring of popular parks, river valley staircases and trail systems and will work to build public awareness of physical distancing and understanding of the playground closures through additional public education
- All sledding hills will be closed and maintenance of City cross country ski trails will end
- The City of Edmonton will discourage public gatherings by reducing the capacity of picnic sites
- All ice surfaces and supporting pavilions have been closed and will be monitored to ensure they are no longer being used

These steps were announced at a media event during which questions from employees and the media were answered. To view a recording of the media event, click [here](#).

The resiliency of the human spirit in difficult times

City of Edmonton Chaplain, John Dowds sees our response to the COVID-19 emergency as an opportunity to keep connected: we are part of a global community where connection at a human level is vital. He delivers his thoughts in this [video](#).

ETS Route 747 adjusted

Effective Wednesday March 25, ETS Route 747 service for travellers will be adjusted. No ETS service will be provided for travellers who have landed at the Edmonton International Airport, or for travellers heading from Century Park Transit Centre to the airport. Route 747 will remain operational as a charter service for people who work at the airport and in its vicinity.

This service adjustment helps protect the public and Transit Operators, while supporting the transit needs of those who work in and around the airport.

More about physical distancing

When warmer spring weather arrives, we expect a continued surge of Edmontonians enjoying an outdoor break. Staying mentally and physically healthy is critical for managing through the COVID-19 crisis. The concern is that some Edmontonians are not taking the direction from Alberta Health Services seriously and that has the potential to impact us all. It's worth repeating the physical distancing directive: when you go outside, make sure there are 2 metres (6 feet) between yourself and others. This applies whether you go to the grocery

store or walk on a city trail. So, go out and enjoy the arrival of spring, but do it in a safe and physically distant way.

For those employees that have reached out regarding proximity concerns in their workplaces and/or vehicles, please know that we are continuing to assess ways to mitigate these conditions.

Security reminder

Corporate Security is reminding employees still working in a City of Edmonton building to be alert to security practices. More information is found [here](#).

Public information

The City's public information about the COVID-19 response is online at 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](#).

Task Team

Members of the COVID-19 Task Team are listed [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