

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2020

Oil sands industry takes active measures to limit potential COVID-19 exposure

Fort McMurray – The safety and well-being of our communities and workforce is the top priority for OSCA and our members. Our members are actively taking aggressive steps to implement pandemic plans and procedures to address coronavirus exposure (COVID-19). These include:

Screening/Self-isolation Protocol

A worker, whether coming by road or air, goes through a screening procedure before entering site. This can be in the form of a daily COVID-19 assessment questionnaire and/or a temperature check.

If the on-site worker displays symptoms that meet COVID-19 screening criteria, such as a cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath, they are assessed by the on-site clinical staff and immediately required to:

- Self-isolate in their own room, with their own bathroom and meals delivered to their room.
- Workers that are self-isolating are removed from the general workforce population.

In an effort to reduce the burden on the healthcare system, companies are utilizing on-site medical clinics, professionals and resources.

Workforce/Schedules

- All non-essential staff has been directed to work from home.
- Companies are focusing on essential staff, and adjusting work schedules, thereby dramatically decreasing the population on site.
- In some cases scheduled turnarounds have been postponed to minimize activity on site while physical distancing requirements are in place.

Physical Distancing

- Areas including lobbies, lounges, gyms and recreational spaces have been closed or are being managed aggressively.
- Tables and chairs have been removed from dining halls to increase the spacing between individuals.
- In common areas some companies have used tape to identify two metre distances.
- The meals have switched from buffet to pre-packaged or are served by staff and utensils are disposable.
- More time is allocated to meals or meal times are being staggered to accommodate physical distancing and minimize exposure.

Sanitation

- All companies have implemented advanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- Spaces are cleaned more frequently and more
- There are required PPE standards for cleaning and specific high grade cleaning agents

Transportation

- Implementing protocols for the safe transfer of workers in and out of the region and safely back to their homes. The efforts include:
 - More flights and staggering flight times.
 - Flights flying at reduced capacity to minimize exposure.
 - Limiting the number of people on buses (one per row).
 - Offering safe repatriation busing services to major hubs.

These measures are consistent with the culture and commitment to worker safety that exists in the oil sands.

The oil sands industry continues to consult with AHS on a regular basis. OSCA members also continue to coordinate with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's (RMWB) mutual aid group chaired by the RMWB Deputy of Emergency Management to ensure our collective emergency response efforts are well coordinated to protect residents and workers.

Canada's oil sands industry is critical to the sustainability of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta and Canada. Albertans and Canadians rely on energy to heat their homes, fuel necessary transportation, and provide power to our homes and industries.

Should you have company specific questions, please contact the company directly.

For more information contact:

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