

For Immediate Release

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Oil sands industry responds to potential COVID-19 exposure

Fort McMurray – The safety of local communities and our workforce is paramount for the Oil Sands Community Alliance (OSCA) and our members. Our members are actively taking steps to monitor and implement pandemic plans to address coronavirus exposure (COVID-19).

The activities being undertaken include:

- Encouraging employees to complete the prescribed daily COVID-19 assessment.
- Implementing additional screening procedures at sites for all permanent and contract workers.
- Using clinical staff and advanced first aiders to monitor the health of workers and provide guidance.

If a worker, working in camp, displays symptoms that meet COVID-19 screening criteria, such as a cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath they are immediately required to:

- Isolate to their own room, with their own bathroom (if possible), and have meals delivered to them.
- Inform the most responsible person at their site immediately, as per work camp policy.
- On-site staff must notify AHS promptly for further assessment.

Other pandemic procedures taken by industry members include:

- Instructing non-essential staff to work from home.
- Canceling non-essential business travel.
- Developing and implementing protocols for the safe transfer of workers in and out of the region.
- Staggering of meal and flight times to minimize exposure and considering closing common areas on site and in camps if necessary.
- Reducing capacity on charter buses to and off worksites to allow for social distancing.
- Evaluating scheduled turnarounds, or deciding to postpone them.

The additional procedures taken by industry are consistent with the culture and commitment to worker safety that exists in the oil sands. These steps are being readily incorporated into daily operations at sites throughout the region.

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This is a dynamic situation and the oil sands industry continues to work closely with government agencies and the direction of AHS to adapt procedures accordingly.

OSCA reminds all workers, contractors, suppliers and stakeholders that the effectiveness of the procedures depends on the diligence of every individual in order to be successful.

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

- 30 -

For more information contact:

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