**COVID-19 Driver Communication**

As you have likely seen in the news, there continues to be an ***exponential*** increase in reported cases globally of the Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19 (over 133,000+ confirmed cases), and the situation is changing on a daily, if not hourly, basis.  As of yesterday, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a “***Global Pandemic***” and the United States has put a travel ban in place to and from Europe for the next 30 days.

As always, the Safety of our employees, their families and the communities in which we operate remains our top priority.  We appreciate that March Break is often a traditional time for employees to spend time with their families and loved ones and often involves travel.

As is the case with employers across North America, we find ourselves in the very difficult position to weigh the very serious concerns of this global pandemic and its disastrous impact around the world with the choice employees may make to travel internationally.

After careful consideration, we have made the very difficult decision to inform employees who may choose to travel over the next 14 days to countries who have “***Active travel health notices\****” (see Government of Canada Public Health website - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html#ath> ) *that upon their return to work will be asked to self-monitor their health at home for 14 days at their own expense\*\**.  We are taking these serious measures to protect our employees, their loved ones and the communities in which we live from further spreading this potentially lethal virus.

Please contact Human Resources or your Plant Manager if you plan to travel to a high-risk region (a region with an “Active travel health notice”) within the next 8 weeks (or have travelled to one of these regions in the last 2 weeks).

Please note that the impact of this global pandemic is changing on a daily basis and we will be closely monitoring the situation to ensure we are keeping employees informed on the social responsibility we all carry to protect the lives of loved ones around the world and the potential strain on our global healthcare system.

**What You Can do**

As a driver, you come into contact with many people during your workday. The following are some precautionary steps you can take to mitigate the spread of the virus:

* Limit your activity in the plant to the back door and shipping office to pick up your paperwork
* Use hand sanitizer when you enter the building
* Avoid shaking hands/touching other people you encounter on the course of your work day
* Avoid touching your face; if you blow your nose, wash your hands and use hand sanitizer
* Wash your hands regularly and use hand sanitizer after every delivery
* Sanitize surfaces such as your cell phone, steering wheel and door handles of your truck
* Wear gloves while working

**\****In addition,* *The Government of Canada is* ***advising that Canadians avoid all travel on cruise ships*** *due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, until further notice.*

*\*\**Please keep in mind that the list of regions who are impacted by this Government of Canada Travel Health Notice is quickly growing and the country you may visit could be added to the list while your are away.  If it is, you will be subject to the 14 day isolation rule.