

March 20, 2020

Jacques Dube
Chief Administrative Officer
Halifax Regional Municipality

Dear Mr. Dube,

In order to mitigate the risk to employees from a public health perspective, we note that you have taken the following actions:

As of Mar. 13, self-isolation for all employees who travelled to a province, state or country where there were confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Access-a-Bus Passengers are requested to limit trip requests to essential trips only including physician appointments, medical services & dialysis, prescription retrieval, and groceries;

Halifax Transit has suspended all fare collection on bus and ferry services effective Wednesday, March 18 as a result of the municipality's commitment to safe social distancing;

Boarding and exiting through rear doors on buses are required for all passengers except those requiring accessible service;

An increased frequency in wipe-downs of high-touch surfaces;

Making the first seat unavailable to riders on buses (this does not impact accessible seating);

Limiting passengers on buses to seated passengers only;

Limiting the number of ferry passengers to 50 per trip;

Masks have been issued to all Transit operators who wish to wear them;

Residents and visitors who are feeling ill are asked not to use transit services until their health returns to normal;

All public facing customer service centers in HRM facilities have been closed;
Signs have been posted at all locations asking anyone entering if they have been out of the country or who feel ill to not come in;

Fire stations have been closed to the public; and

All HRM employees who are required to have public interface in order to continue with essential or designated services are directed to take precautions before entering any structure or vehicle.

I appreciate that you have asked those that can work from home are doing so now.

We therefore advise that if you keep these measures in place, we are satisfied that you have implemented every precaution that is currently reasonable from a public health perspective to mitigate the risk presented by COVID-19 for your employees, by doing what is reasonable to maintain a safe work space for those who are designated to come to work.

Public Health

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Sarbu MD, MSc. FRCPC
Regional Medical Officer of Health, Central Zone

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