Briefing Note

Covid-19-March 13, Update 1.0

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Global Pandemic in response to Covid-19 (Coronavirus). The virus has now been found in more than 100 countries. It has infected some 120,000 people, killing more than 4,000 of them. On March 13, 2020 Saskatchewan Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shahab confirmed Saskatchewan 2nd reported case of Covid-19. In a press conference March 13, 2020, Premier Moe stated that the entire Government of Saskatchewan completely understands that Covid-19 is an evolving situation and therefore should take aggressive measures to mitigate the virus.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also received further briefing with respect to the Federally announced, $1 billion dollar fund to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak. Saskatchewan will receive a per capita share of $15.6 million with a total of $500 million being earmarked for Canadian Provinces and Territories.

As a community, we all have a responsibility to be proactive at this time to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Saskatchewan.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The association is closely following all Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Services directives and as a health and safety organization, fully understands the severity of the current situation and the significant role that the supply chain plays within it.

In the meantime, the Government of Saskatchewan has introduced aggressive measures that should be followed by our members, but most importantly, all people in the Province of Saskatchewan. As of March 16, 2020, under section 45 of the Public Health Act it will be mandatory that:

- No public gathering over 250 in any one room are permitted. (This does not include settings where people are distributed throughout a building—i.e. schools).
- No events over 50 people with speakers or attendees who have travelled internationally over last 14 days will be held.
- Faith Based Organizations are no longer exempt from these measures but should have measures such as crowd sized monitoring that supports safe social distancing—you should contact your local health medical officer if necessary.
- Those who have travelled outside province over last 14 days should not visit hospitals or long-term care homes.
- Effective immediately, government employees international and US travel is prohibited. Travel in Canada is restricted and must be approved by the Deputy Minister to the Premier.
Government employees currently travelling are required to self-isolate for 14 days as a caution upon arrival home. If they develop symptoms, they are to dial 811. This goes for all peoples experiencing symptoms.

Saskatchewan’s Chief Medical Officer recommends that all employers in Saskatchewan and individuals follow these practices. This will help to limit the spread, protect exposure of the virus and reduce the impact of Covid-19 on the Health Care System in Saskatchewan.