

Hello again folks

This second email of today is about PPE and symptoms.

Today we reached out to the Durham Region Health Department to request access to a point person in Public Health; someone that would not keep us waiting for six hours, and someone who would be available to every DS agency in Durham Region.

In anticipation of having some success on this front, we would like you to contact the Covid19 Command Post the next time that someone you support has symptoms that are a concern to you. We should be able to ask the necessary questions on your behalf, and get answers, more quickly than has typically been possible up to now.

On the topic of PPE's:

I sent out a CBC link earlier today and if you've read it you will know that all is not well with the world – there is a global shortage of PPEs. There should be 100 N95 masks (with respirators) at your location. My initial directive of March 13 asked Team Leaders to begin checking this supply on a very regular basis to make sure no seepage occurs.

These masks will be used if and when a person you support is confirmed to have the virus. The person will be isolated in his or her bedroom and staff will wear the respirator mask only when they have to enter the room to deliver food or medication, or to provide some sort of personal care. Ideally, the sick person would wear a dust mask for good measure, but this is a very outside chance. It would test most people's tolerance at the best of times and this virus tends to cause some difficulty with breathing.

If we have a suspected case in a home we will seek input from our public health consultant but in the person's vicinity you will wear dust masks at the very least. Again, if the person is able, we can ask them to also wear a dust mask.

The six foot rule still applies so if the person is isolated in their bedroom it is not necessary that everyone spend the day wearing a mask. For this reason, and because it would greatly complicate the logistical problem of keeping viable staff teams in place, we have moved off the idea of moving an infected person to one of the Respite Homes.

We have a much, much larger supply of these dust masks, but they go fast. A dust mask needs to be discarded when it becomes moist, or as soon as you take it off. If you put it on again, you are essentially fitting a germ trap around your mouth and nose.

Please read carefully what the CBC article has to say about dust masks and about when they should be worn. We are following best practices here.

Thank you to each one of you for your cooperation.

**Glenn Taylor | CEO**

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