

April 2, 2020

We are in this together! The health and well being of our staff, customers and associates during these uncertain times is and will remain Walinga's first priority. In our ongoing efforts to take the necessary precautions, please rest assured that any questions or concerns brought to our attention, have our full attention and are thoroughly investigated to confirm our promise to do everything possible in the circumstance to ensure the health and well being of everyone.

Our most recent and very legitimate concern is the potential for increasing the risk of COVID-19 entering the workplace by allowing an employee that has a family member or individual living in their household that works in healthcare to be present at work.

Although we cannot legally refuse essential work to an employee because of a family or household members specific job, we must exercise due diligence in everyone's right to a safe and healthy work environment. This remains a balancing act, but by asking the right questions, through proper education and where we all follow the protocols as outlined by Health Canada and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is possible. It is important that we stay informed and listen to the experts in order to make educated decisions and not get caught up in the daily feeds of social media. Considering this, we encourage you to watch the following video from Dr. David Price of Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York to better understand the transmission of the virus.

Protecting Families During COVID-19 Pandemic - Dr. David Price
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qwx3JMRTz8U&feature=youtu.be>

When it comes down to an educated decision, it can be quite simple, maintain clean hands and avoid hand-to-face contact. The thought that one employee may be a greater risk than another, really is neither here nor there when everyone coming into the workplace is healthy. The bottom line is that we present ourselves with the same risk to others where we do not exercise proper hygiene, nor follow recommendations to refrain from coming into work where we may have symptoms or have come in direct or close contact with someone that has the virus.

For those that remain skeptical, it is important to remember when we hear the term 'healthcare worker', it is a broad term for a person who works at a hospital or healthcare facility. We also need to understand that not all healthcare workers come in direct contact with patients. Walinga has had the opportunity to review preventative measures implemented for healthcare workers in our local hospitals and rest assured, they have imposed strict rules to help ensure everyone's health and safety remains priority at and outside of work.

As noted, Walinga will continue to monitor information provided from identified sources to ensure we remain transparent and respond as required.

With your health and safety in mind - the EH&S Corporate Team.