



KEEPING YOU SAFE & INFORMED

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE TO EMPLOYEES - 3-17-2020

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I'm sure by now that many of you have heard about the Governor's proclamation today ordering the closure of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, theaters, casinos/gaming facilities, mass gatherings, senior citizen centers, and adult daycare facilities. As of tonight, the number of COVID-19 cases we are aware of in Iowa totals 29.

I know that many of you are dealing with difficult situations both at home and at work, especially given the aggressive steps that have been taken to combat the spread of the virus. I also know that the events of recent days have dramatically disrupted life as we know it. With this in mind, I wanted to share a few thoughts about the situation and touch upon an idea not mentioned much the last few days – hope.

First, let's discuss expectations. Many of you have submitted great questions and comments, which have been collected by the Employee Services Bureau. I'm pleased to announce that answers and guidance are now available (see attachment). The answers and guidance are a great start, and it's also true that we simply will not have all the answers. This is a fluid, dynamic event of unprecedented scale and complexity, and we learn more as the event unfolds. I want you to know that we have your back, want everyone to be healthy, and we want you to do a great job in your work every day.

Combatting the virus really gets back to who we are as an organization. This is the team who fought H1N1 and avian flu, who has dealt with not one but two multi-car pile ups a few winters ago, who performed rescue operations for stranded motorists just last year. We've hauled thousands of dump loads of debris, gone door to door checking for residents, and transported equipment and supplies all across the state. This is the team that came together to combat the unprecedented floods of 2019 when events occurred that no one had ever witnessed before. We not only survived but have recovered stronger and better than before.

Now we are faced with a new challenge, COVID-19. How will we respond? We will stand together. This is who we are as an organization, as employees, as people. Yes, there may be a long road ahead of us with many unknowns, but at this difficult time, we will stand together and take care of one another. We will overcome this just as we have in the past. We will combat the virus... and we will win.

Stay safe,
Scott