



KEEPING YOU SAFE & INFORMED

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE TO EMPLOYEES - 4-3-2020

Yesterday, Governor Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration until April 30th, which continues the closure of schools, extends closures/limits placed on bars and restaurants, and provides for many other measures intended to combat the spread of COVID-19.

I recognize these are unprecedented times that have proven stressful and difficult for many of you and your families. I share your concerns about the virus and staying safe both at home and at work. While this challenge can raise our anxiety levels, it's important that we stand together, knowing that the transportation system is vital and that the public, including our friends and family, are counting on us to do our jobs at this critical time. Each of you are the workers that the US Department of Homeland Security has identified as essential to our continued infrastructure viability. Your work to keep Iowa's transportation system running reliably matters now more than ever.

While all of our jobs are essential, that doesn't lessen the nervousness some of us may be feeling by serving these essential functions. That may ring all the more true for the 1,200 or so of us who do not have the option to work remotely. I want to pause a moment to sincerely say "thank you" to each and every one of our employees for what you are doing. This situation isn't easy, and we know there is a delicate line you must walk to balance your professional responsibilities and the well-being of your families.

As I have stated, the safety of our employees is our number one priority. That's why we have not stopped innovating to keep all of you safe while serving our customers. For example, some employees are now taking calls remotely or using a newly implemented web chat feature to answer customer questions from home. We have installed plastic shields between our driver's service center staff and customers, and moved to appointments for essential services only. We have asked employees to ride one person per car when they must travel for business. We've provided guidance for workers at construction sites and adjusted lane closure policies to allow for day-time construction, which is safer for both employees and contractors. DOT maintenance employees have also been very busy brooming, strip sealing, and painting different roadways during the day-time hours instead of at night in some of our metro areas.

I'm excited to share these examples because they demonstrate the tenacity and grit of Iowa DOT employees in the face of adversity. We are doing harder, better things by overcoming our own individual limitations and serving together as a team. Be assured DOT's budget is strong, we are open for business, and we are all called to serve now more than ever. So the time is now to double down. The time is now to continue doing the right things, to take care of yourselves, to stay disciplined and focused, and to be the best version of yourselves you can be. We are going to get through this, we won't quit... hang in there and keep getting it done every day.

Scott