

Ministry of The Attorney General

Courts Administration

Regional Municipality of Durham

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TO: Justice Participants of the Lt. Col. Samuel S. Sharpe D.S.O. MP Courthouse

(Note: Please distribute broadly to staff, justice participants and stakeholders)

FROM: Rebekah McNeill, Manager

DATE: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

RE: 12062020-002– Health Update at the Lt. Col. Samuel S. Sharpe D.S.O. MP

I am writing to provide health information regarding the Lt. Col. Samuel S. Sharpe D.S.O. MP Courthouse.

Today, December 8th, I learned that an OPS employee who works at the courthouse was notified by their local Public Health unit that they are a probable positive for COVID-19, as they are in close contact with a family member who has tested positive. The employee has advised they will seek testing on December 9th to confirm the diagnosis.

This person was last in the building on Friday, December 4th and did not experience symptoms of COVID-19 while in the workplace. They have confirmed that they adhered to infection control protocols while in the building, including physical distancing and wearing a face covering. They are currently self-isolating as a normal public health preventative procedure and following the direction of medical professionals.

In responding to this case, as in all cases of COVID-19, the ministry is relying upon the expertise and guidance of public health officials. Management has been in contact with the Durham Public Health Unit about the specific details of this case and about any additional precautions that are required by the ministry. They have advised that no further actions need to be taken.

The Public Health Unit is taking necessary steps to reduce transmission, including contact tracing, and will proceed based on the specific circumstances of each individual case, and on an assessment of whether people were in close contact with this individual.

As you know, MAG's policies, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, PPE and face coverings, are in place to reduce the possibility of close contact and virus transmission. I urge you to continue to be proactive at all times in following the precautions in place in the building. Enhanced cleaning of the building has also been in effect since March 2020.

All staff and stakeholders should continue to self-monitor. Should you or anyone in the workplace experience symptoms, please contact a health care provider or Public Health immediately and advise your manager. If necessary, Public Health will advise the ministry on next steps.

I understand that this situation may cause you concern. Your health and safety is of the highest priority for us. We are in ongoing discussions with the Public Health Unit and will continue to follow their guidance around best practices to ensure your safety.

I would also like to remind you that the Employee Family Assistance Program is always available to support an employee's well-being. You can learn more [here](#).

As a reminder, coronaviruses are spread mainly from person to person through close contact. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses. These include:

- stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others,
- wear face coverings or PPE, as indicated,
- wash your hands often with soap and water,
- use hand sanitizer as needed,
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve,
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth,
- avoid contact with people who are sick, and
- stay home if you are sick

If you have concerns, or if you are in a high-risk group as identified by the Ministry of Health, you are encouraged to use the online self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> and to discuss any concerns with your manager.

For more information, please visit the Ontario COVID-19 website:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#section-6>

Thank you for your understanding.

Rebekah McNeill,
Manager of Court Operations