



*The ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' Association of Ottawa*



## ECA OTTAWA NEWSWIRE

The ECA Ottawa Newswire is the monthly source for electrical information and communications to our members on issues related specifically to our association, our industry, and our community.

### Coronavirus Advice

**March 13, 2020**

Good afternoon all.

The first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been reported in Ottawa on Wednesday and a 2<sup>nd</sup> case has been reported yesterday. This first local case coincides with the World Health Organization's declaration that coronavirus is now a global pandemic. If you haven't read up on this virus as yet, Coronavirus is flu like – and can cause very mild to severe illness consisting of fever, and/or cough, other upper respiratory tract infection symptoms and difficulty breathing (shortness of breath). Given the age and general health of the vast majority of our staff and trades, the risk profile to this immediate group appears to be lower however be clear, risks exist particularly if you – or those you know - have a weakened immune system as is the case for older people and/ or people with chronic diseases.

I encourage you to read the Ottawa Public Health Site, <https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/pandemic-preparedness.aspx>, which highlights front line defences against the virus including hygiene practices, touching your face, close contact with others who appear to be ill and using techniques such as coughing/ sneezing into one's sleeve. Further, please be sure all your work surfaces, lunch tables, safety tables and electronic key boards are kept clean and disinfected. I would ask all your site superintendents to be sure good hygiene stations exist for vigilant hand cleaning on the job as well as managing staff and trade interactions to two meters distance between visitors to the site trailer or close quarters on the Project. Office staff, please respect the two meter distance when interfacing with your colleagues and associates in your offices.

Testing for coronavirus in Ottawa will be conducted at Brewer Park Arena. We encourage and recommend that any of you with fever, cough , or difficulty breathing AND are where any of the following conditions are applicable to you within 14 days prior to the onset of these symptoms;

- Traveled internationally or to a Canadian province with established local transmission, or
- Came in close contact with a person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled internationally or been to a Canadian province with established local transmission, or

- Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19

Anyone fitting the above criteria should be calling Ottawa Public Health at (613) 580-6744. A public health nurse will assess your situation and arrange for COVID-19 testing at a local hospital or at Brewer Park Arena.

There is currently no treatment for this illness and patients with coronavirus are quarantined for 14 days as directed by the public health official. Rest assured, should you be infected by coronavirus forcing you to be quarantined, you will be paid through the quarantine period. Should any other ailments found through this testing process, you can rely on our Company sick leave and benefits policy to assist.

There is a lot of information – and misinformation – in the media and internet for all to digest. I encourage you to only act on Federal, Provincial and Municipal advisories to inform yourself of the risks and actions and setting your personal health plan forward.

There are 3 Websites that are being commonly referred from the few communications I have received

Ottawa Public Health is a key one - <https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/pandemic-preparedness.aspx>

Ontario Government - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Canadian Government - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.htm>

Best & Healthy Regards

Daryl Sharkey  
Executive Director  
ECA Ottawa



Visit our website

ECA Ottawa | 86 Greenfield Ave, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0X7 Canada

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