

To: All STA Employees  
From: E. Susan Meyer  
Date: April 1, 2020  
Re: STA Employee Confirmed Positive for Coronavirus

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On Monday, STA entered the sixth week responding to COVID-19, continually making adjustments as the situation changed and new information was made available. This is a taxing time where we find ourselves managing through an emergency without a clear understanding of its extent or duration.

The health and safety of our employees and the public is always our top priority. We've been coordinating closely with the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and our partners at Greater Spokane Emergency Management to make sure our actions accurately prioritize public safety and are aligned with the regional response effort. We've provided employees and customers with important instructions from SRHD, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Washington Department of Health (DOH) about hygiene and safety practices to help prevent the spread of the virus.

However, statistically speaking, any organization with hundreds of employees might expect the possibility of illness among its workforce. Yesterday we were notified by an STA employee that they tested positive for Coronavirus. With so much uncertainty about how it spreads, it is difficult to know the origin of an infection. Regardless, in our ongoing efforts to share information with employees as early as possible, here are the pertinent details:

- After recognizing possible symptoms, the employee began self-isolation last week
- STA was notified by the employee on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the positive result
- STA contacted SRHD the same day to confirm previously verified protocol
- SRHD will instruct the employee to inform those with whom they had "close contact"
- SRHD will notify STA if additional actions or investigations are necessary
- The employee informed STA they have mild symptoms and are recovering well

memo



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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To protect the employee's identity and privacy rights, details that could identify the employee will not be released.

In our communication with SRHD over the past few weeks, they have verified our communications are accurate and beneficial to the community, and that our safety measures (protocols regarding disinfecting of vehicles and facilities, social distancing, and Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE) are appropriate to help slow the spread of the virus.

I see the stress and anxiety naturally felt by our employees who are providing public transit throughout this public health emergency. I also see and hear heartfelt stories from employees and customers about the good STA is making possible for others. Like many essential businesses and organizations working hard to provide their needed services – grocery stores, pharmacies, daycares, and others – STA is doing everything we can to minimize the risk of exposure.

This is a new phase of the pandemic; one where a coworker is now affected. While difficult, we'll manage through this together by adhering to our safety measures, continuing to use PPE's, practicing proper hygiene and social distancing, and by providing helpful resources to our employees.

I am profoundly grateful to the men and women on the STA team who provide the lifeline service our communities require.

Cc: Steve Blaska  
Brandon Rapez-Betty  
Nancy Williams  
Karl Otterstrom  
Monique Liard  
Thomas Leighty  
Sam Hairston  
Mike Kunder