

## VPFFA COVID-19 Update - March 14

March 14 2020,

Brothers and Sisters,

The time to take significant measures to protect our service levels and the rest of the healthcare continuum is YESTERDAY, not tomorrow or Monday morning at a City Hall meeting.

After numerous attempts to create proactive mitigation measures to “reduce the curve” of the emerging Coronavirus in our community over the last week, I have been put in a position to weigh the health and safety of all members of Local 1595 against waiting for an updated action plan from the bureaucrats during a defined pandemic.

I and the Board have had numerous requests for straight forward info over the last week, that remains our primary focus. We are all uncertain, nervous and a little bit scared and that’s normal. This is a pandemic, that is the reality. Things will get worse before they get better. My commitment to you as your President, is to look after you and your loved ones. This is why after consultation with the VPFFA Executive Board, Health and Safety, Chief Steward and OPFFA I am providing the advice to all members of Local 1595 as per Health Canada,

Upon return to Canada:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after your return from travel outside of Canada. Some provinces and territories may have specific recommendations for certain groups such as health care workers.

Upon return, any members who have travelled internationally are encouraged to contact a shop steward or executive member so that these responsible individuals can be represented appropriately in terms of maintaining benefits and compensation during quarantine. Your executive board and committees will be here throughout this entire process to ensure our members health, well being, and compensation are prioritized as the men and women of the VPFFA tirelessly sacrifice themselves on the frontlines. This is a collaborative initiative that will require all members in all divisions to be looking out for and protecting one another as we simultaneously continue to deliver a sense of security to our hyper alert and hyper sensitive community.

I have attached the following link for reference, I will also be creating an Ad-Hoc committee to deal with emerging issues as they continue to unfold. <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/221>

Stay Safe, Stay Engaged, Stay Smart and Stay Tuned

Mark Wilson President Vaughan PFFA