

Local 13 COVID-19 Update

The Local 13 Executive are proud that our Members are managing the stress of the unknown and the daily ever-changing circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic with amazing resiliency! Local 13 Members are taking this health threat very seriously.

There has been a terrific amount of information from a variety of sources- some correct, some not (not everything on twitter or Facebook is true!!) and a lot of information to process.

Here's where we are today.

All HRM Customer Service Centres and Recreation Facilities have been closed and where possible, those Local 13 Members who have the ability, are working from home or are at home on leave with pay.

However, we have many Members either still in the workplace or who are out in the field that continue to interact with the public daily or who are integrated with Police, Fire or 311 and as such are considered Essential Services.

As such we know they are at higher risk than others and remind them to follow all recommended COVID-19 safe work practices such as practicing social distancing, good hand washing hygiene, disinfecting shared surfaces etc. There is constant messaging about these and other precautions from health officials that we would remind folks to adhere to.

The closing of the Municipally owned Recreations Centres has resulted in the cancellation of the Spring Recreation programs and Summer Recreation Registration has been postponed.

Communication between the CAO and all HRM employees has been constant and the CAO has provided assurances that everyone including part time, casual and temporary employees will be paid until May 7, by which we all will have more of an idea of what this pandemic will mean going forward. At this point, the possibility of layoffs is not being mentioned.

The Local 13 Executive are receiving many questions from concerned members. We are working hard to obtain answers; remedy issues as respond to standard day to day questions.

In these unsettling and quickly changing days, we thank you for solidarity as we stand together as a community.

Continue to be kind, be patient -especially when it takes time to get answers and check in on each other.

In addition to the resources below, should you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to any Member of your Local 13 Executive.

Our contact information can be found at <https://nsupe.ca/local-13/>

Homewood Health's Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP): 902.466.3327 or 1.800.663.1142

Employee updates: hrmmatters.ca/coronavirus

Public health information: [Public Health Agency of Canada](http://PublicHealthAgencyofCanada) and [Nova Scotia Health and Wellness](http://NovaScotiaHealthandWellness)

Human Resources: MyHR@halifax.ca or 902.490.6145