

## Covid-19 Numbers In The EMPP

Since the world pandemic hit us in January of 2020, when the World Health Organization announced a mysterious corona virus, our world has changed. From the beginning we saw how businesses and home owners were scrambling to find things such as hand sanitizers and sanitizing wipes. By January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 there was an estimated death toll of 200 and a positive case count of 9800 cases. At the end of January 2020, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency. Then, as the upward trend of cases kept increasing air travel became restricted, leaving many passengers stranded in various countries. With various time differences our office received emails, voicemails and text messages on those that had to stay in the country they visited due to travel restrictions and some countries announcing curfews as well. Our office had to ensure that our employer would place these members on Quarantine Leave due to the circumstances they were facing.

We were facing our own challenges here as it was almost impossible to find any type of hand sanitizers as the shelves in a various grocery stores had become bare. A handful of local distilleries were capable of changing their operations a bit to produce such products. This was a new issue to deal with filled with many unknown factors and how best to proceed. The anxiety and stress caused many to worry about the future and what it would mean if with a weakened immune system and those with underlying health conditions might catch Covid-19 and how they may react to it became a deep concern for us all. With any type of virus came the variety of variants which also became known as case counts increased. The variants named so far include Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Omicron.

In March 2020, the government of Canada made a recommendation that those with underlying medical conditions remain at home including those over the age of 70. This allowed those individuals that fit this category to be safe at home and lower the risk of transmission of Covid-19. As things progressed our employer introduced a mandatory mask policy in November of 2020. As things progressed, we saw and heard of the confusion of what type of mask was allowed. This of course caused more confusion and unneeded distress to our members.

As an example, from the Edmonton Mail Processing Plant, since January 2021 we were notified of the following case counts.

- January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: Last day worked Dec. 19, 2020. Sanitization: Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Positive
- January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: Last day worked Dec. 29, 2020. Deep Cleaning Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Presumptive
- January 14, 2021: Last day worked Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Deep cleaning Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Presumptive
- January 20, 2021: Last day worked Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Deep cleaning Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Presumptive
- January 21, 2021: Last day worked Jan.17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sanitization Jan. 21, 2021. Positive
- February 20, 2021: Last day worked Feb. 19, 2021. Sanitization Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive
- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: Last day worked March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sanitization. April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive
- April 22, 2021: Last day worked unknown. Sanitization. April 22, 2021. Positive
- April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Last day worked April 23, 2021. Sanitization. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive
- April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Last day worked April 24, 2021. Sanitization. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive
- May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Last day worked was April 8, 2021. Sanitization April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive
- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Last day worked was May 11, 2021. Sanitization May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Presumptive Positive.
- May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Last day worked was May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sanitization May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Positive.
- September 2, 2021: Last day worked was Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Sanitization Sept. 2, 2021. Positive
- December 27, 2021: Last day worked Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Sanitization Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Presumptive.
- December 28, 2021: 2 employees. Last days worked Dec. 22, 2021 and Dec. 27, 2021. Sanitization Dec. 27, 2021. Both positive.
- December 29, 2021: Last day worked Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. 2021. Sanitization Dec. 29, 2021. Positive.

The above is what was sent to us by our employer. If you believe items have been missed, please reach out to my office on this matter (780-423-9000 ext 4).

In Solidarity,

**RASHPAL SEHMBY** (he/him)



**HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER**  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Local 730 - Edmonton & Affiliates