

Construction Safety Nova Scotia Towns & Municipalities Focus Group

Covid 19- Preparing for the worst.

November 2, 2020

10:00am – 12:00pm

In attendance:

CSNS: Laura Langille, Lori Ross, Kyla Porter, Melissa Deir, Craig Walker, Jonathan White

Representatives from: Town of New Glasgow, Town of Berwick, Town of Mahone Bay, Town of Truro, Municipality of Yarmouth.

Old Business

- Website is updated with Covid-19 resources.
- Municipality/Towns resources on website- password= fred
- Outstanding items from the Comprehensive Hazard Assessment are Wastewater, Water Treatment, Fire Services, Police Services.

New Business

- 10:00am – Introductions and agenda facilitated by Melissa Deir.
- Managing Covid 19. Nova Scotia Guidelines. Where are we right now. What is the role of Public Health. (see Powerpoint)
- Survey Results. Most are operating at full capacity. Most also feel that they are prepared to deal with an exposure. Only half of the respondents are ready to deal with a long term absence due to covid. Most have procedures and protocols in place to outline what is expected of the employees and general public. Overview Given by Craig Walker
- What do you have in place? What is working or not working.
 - Berwick- Social distance, wipes in vehicles. Only one person in vehicles. Always talked about and brought up in meetings. Feels unprepared for an outbreak in the town's employees. They have established an agreement with Kings Co. if needed to be able to pull from their staff for essential services.
 - New Glasgow- Administration has installed a dutch door to keep the general public from coming into their area. They do not have contract tracing in place, however, they are going to implement. Added plexiglass in the vehicles for the larger trucks to allow for 2 people to be in one vehicle.
 - Yarmouth- Procedures in place for the employees to reference as to what do do when feeling unwell. Meeting rooms are using contract tracing. Hired more employees to be able to cover off potential illnesses.
 - New Glasgow Police- 24 hours. Rotating staff in groups and isolating them from each other to prevent the entire platoon from being exposed. Implemented intercom system. The building is no longer open to the public. Cleaning the vehicles. Everyone has lots of access to PPE. Written procedures and protocols are in place. Contact tracing is

something that they are going to put in place. Safe work practice in place for entering private homes. Inhouse clinic for flu shots at Policing and their families.

- Truro- Lots of protocols in place that are written. Pulled from other resources from across the country. Work rotations in place. Contact tracing in place for any public that enters their building. Employees are crossed trained to prepare for any absences.
- Construction Safety has a variety of resources available including videos, a toolkit, signage and guides. These are all available on the website which continues to be updated as the provincial requirements change and new resources are developed.
- Mental health is being talked about in some of the municipalities.
- If someone tests positive in the workplace Public Health will make the decision on who to contact and who to notify. It will be different in every situation and will depend on individual exposure. This is why contact tracing is so important. We all should be keeping our own journals and records of where people are.
- Have you added a covid component to your hazard assessment process?
- Safe work practices, procedures and protocols need to be in writing for what is required or expected for covid including sanitization practices.
- Always consider the worst case scenario. A written plan should be in place.

- 12:05pm – Session concluded