

Elgin St. Thomas Site

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Woodstock Site

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July 24, 2020

From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Dear Business Leader,

We have seen a recent increase in cases of COVID-19 infection within the region served by Southwestern Public Health (Oxford County, Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas). Transmission from individuals travelling to our region from elsewhere is a source of concern for COVID-19 infection in our region, and that includes trucking staff who travel to and from the United States.

We strongly recommend those who work with trucking employees take care to reduce the risk of spreading infection. This includes:

- Practicing physical distancing at all times, including when receiving shipments, in warehouses, in packaging environments, or picking-up/delivering goods and supplies.
- Wearing a face covering before exiting the truck, even when maintaining physical distance.
- Practicing hand hygiene regularly when exiting the truck whether the driver shares a truck or not, in a warehouse or on-site e.g. after handling paperwork or touching surfaces or doorknobs that someone else may have touched.
- Avoiding accommodations in motels/hotels located in known COVID-19 hotspots.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of any illness. Get tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate if symptoms develop.

Please work with your drivers, colleagues, and all workplace staff to develop and enforce personal strategies that protect them from COVID-19 infection. We recognize and understand that long-haul truck drivers are essential workers and it is necessary to maintain cross-border movement of goods and supplies.

We hope this information helps you to keep your employees - and their families – healthy and safe. My sincere thanks for your help in this matter.

Dr. Joyce Lock
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Southwestern Public Health
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