



a message from John Eschenberg
President and Chief Executive Officer



November 4, 2020

Last month, I communicated through an all-employee message the importance of not letting your guard down against the pandemic during the fall and winter seasons. More than ever, it is imperative that we follow our protocols to keep you and your coworkers, friends and family safe during this uniquely challenging time.

Unfortunately, over the past seven days, we have experienced an uptick in both positive cases and in the number of our employees who have been required to quarantine through contact tracing and that, quite frankly, alarms me.

An evaluation of our recent cases indicates that we have a vulnerability, and I am asking for your help to fix it. All of WRPS's positive cases have been linked to virus transmission in off-site locations and during non-work hours. Moreover, a study of the contact tracing results indicates that many of our employees are being quarantined following close contacts made during car/van pools, during lunch breaks and during off-site activities.

I am asking you to make a personal commitment to stay as vigilant in your off-work time as you do in the workplace. It will make a difference. Particularly during the upcoming holidays when we all want to spend time with our family and friends. While you control what you do in your free time, I just want to reinforce that your actions off the clock can have a direct effect on your family, friends and co-workers.

While in the workplace, I recognize that maintaining 6-feet of physical distance can be challenging in our line of work and the limitations in many of our facilities make it even more difficult, particularly during large pre-job briefings. Please work to remain situationally aware and work to be your co-worker's keeper by paying extra attention to distancing measures especially during lunch breaks, meetings, and in the general work spaces. And lastly, at this point in time, I do encourage those who rely on car/van pools to reconsider that practice.

Throughout all of our areas, we will be implementing and considering a few additional measures to help ensure that we have the safest work environment possible. There are a range of options that include greater reliance on five-day work weeks, day-swing shifts, relocating employees to different facilities, reconfiguring lunch rooms to reduce occupancy and discourage congregation, and use of air purifiers in smaller spaces and trailers.

For all of us, the best way to combat the virus is to stick to the basics and stay at home when you are ill. Together, we will ensure our safety at home and on the job. Be well.