COVID-19 UPDATES

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April 8, 2020

My Fellow MTS Employees:

Today we had our first two confirmed cases of MTS bus operators testing positive for COVID-19. Both operators worked out of the Imperial Avenue Division. One has not worked since March 30 and the other not since April 3. Neither showed symptoms while at work and immediately stayed home when first feeling ill. The Americans with Disabilities act does not permit MTS to reveal the operator's name. All of our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and we're hoping for a full recovery.

Our Human Resources department has been working closely with the operators' families. The operators are getting all medical leave pay as well as other medical payment options.

Additionally, MTS personnel have examined the operators' work history and have been communicating with other employees with whom the operators may have been in contact. All areas with which the operators may have been contact with have been disinfected many times since they last reported to work. Guidelines for people who work at any MTS facilities remain the same: monitor your symptoms and stay at home if you feel ill.

Unfortunately, more MTS employees are likely to test positive for COVID-19. I won't be sending out messages such as these for every case, but be assured that we will continue to notify all employees that may have had contact with a sick employee. We will extend every benefit to infected employees. We will keep our riders and the public notified whenever appropriate.

We received some good news that our bus division just received 2,000 masks. Every one of our employees who have contact with the public should be wearing a mask. Supplies are still difficult to obtain. We have several outstanding orders for thousands of masks. All employees can wear homemade masks, scarves or bandanas. We are also making a big push to encourage all riders to wear masks as well.

These are hard and stressful times for us all. Stay positive. I think San Diego has done a great job making hard choices to reduce the spread of this disease. Keep up your physical distancing. Wash your hands. Wear a mask in public. Stay home if sick. Together, we're going to get through this.

Thank you.