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Corporate Announcement

COVID-19 - Message from Annemarie O'Donnell, Chief Executive (OFFICIAL)

You will by now all be aware of last night's announcement by the Prime Minister and the First Minister. You can read more detail about those announcements here

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In essence we should now only leave our homes to buy food, to exercise, to support vulnerable people or for essential work.

I have said this to you many times before, but it bears repeating: Glasgow City Council provides essential support to each and every citizen.

There is not one single person living in this city who does not rely on us. It is absolutely crucial that we keep collecting people's bins to protect people's health, that we keep supporting vulnerable people, that we keep looking after vulnerable children and the children of other key workers, that we keep our roads open so that the emergency services can move about freely, that we keep providing financial support to people who need it.

This is not an exhaustive list, but every citizen uses at least one of these services.

And many of us do not directly deliver those services, however we are still essential to support the delivery of those services. For example, our schools and depots need to be cleaned and our staff need to be paid. There are a number of tasks we carry out which may not look like front line delivery, and which cannot be delivered from home, but without which we could not deliver essential services.

Over the coming days we need to play our part by reducing as far as possible the number of people we have traveling to work, but we need to keep delivering for the city.

There are some things I want you to do today:

1. Speak to your manager

There are some tasks which are obviously essential and obviously can't be carried out from home, and similarly there are some tasks which obviously can be carried out from home. For those people the decision whether to work in or out of the home is a simple one.

However for everyone else, there will need to be local decisions based on whether your job contributes to our essential services. That decision must be taken by your manager in discussion with the senior leadership of your service or ALEO, rather than by you.

If after discussion to your manager it is clear you are not currently contributing to the delivery of those essential services then you should go home whether you have work to do at home or not.

2. Make sure your manager has a way of contacting you

Decisions on which tasks and staff are essential will be taken on a day to day basis. If you are deemed to be essential today, that may not be the case for the whole time we

are dealing with this. Very importantly, if you are not deemed essential today that may also change.

I need to be very clear about this so that there is no misunderstanding: even if you are not essential for the delivery of services today you may become so at some point in the future.

It is vitally important that your manager is able to get in touch with you if we need you to come back into work at some point in the coming days or weeks.

If you are a manager then you should be considering to what extent your part of the business contributes to those essential services and ensuring that you have up to date contact lists.

I know that you will have hoped for greater clarity on who should and should not come to work. However our business is really complex and many of these decisions will need to be taken locally and on a day to day basis.

This is an extremely trying period for everyone and I know it is making many of you anxious. We have a long way to go, and there will be many more challenges before the end.

But this is the greatest challenge our country has faced in decades and we should all be very proud, as I am, of the role we will play in overcoming it.

Regards,

Annemarie O'Donnell
Chief Executive

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