



# Media Statement

February 18, 2021

*Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo* – Over the last year the oil sands industry has been working collaboratively with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the provincial government to manage and reduce the risk, exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As we continuously build upon and modify [existing measures in place](#), our priority is keeping our workers, their families and the communities we work and live in, healthy and safe. Managing exposure and spread among all workers including those who reside outside of the region has been critical and successful. Preventing community spread back to the work sites has been an area of focus and one that rapid testing programs are now being trialed. We recognize that this situation is constantly changing and are committed to working with various governments, both locally and nationally, on COVID-19 guidance.

“With the concern of the new variant strains of COVID-19, the oil sands industry is committed to supporting the health authorities with testing, guidance and contact tracing,” says Perry Berkenpas, Executive Director of the Oil Sands Community Alliance. “As of Monday February 15, there are zero variant cases and no new active cases reported in the Wood Buffalo region. The total active cases in the region are less than 50.”

Oil sands sites continue to operate with reduced onsite workforce with staff who are critical to site operations. Companies have implemented additional precautions for rotational workers, such as pre-screening health questionnaires, strict protocols for anyone displaying symptoms, adjusting work schedules to allow people to follow self-isolation guidance and minimizing the amount of travel rotational workers are doing.

Safety has been, and will continue to be, our number one priority. With active cases across the nation, we need to come together, align our efforts and follow protocols and procedures to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Should you have company specific questions, please contact the company directly.

For more information, contact:

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