Memo: Expo 2020 Dubai | COVID-19 Update
To: International Participants
Date: May 4, 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

I write first to thank you for the support and understanding you have shown in this turbulent time, which has manifested in the securing of the required votes to confirm the postponement of Expo 2020 Dubai until next year, and our new dates which are 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. Now we focus firmly on the work ahead, inspired and energised by your confidence and belief in the power of our shared Expo. We will honour your trust, and outdo all expectations when we open our doors next year.

As we move forward towards our new dates, the health and safety of the workers on our site continues to be a fundamental priority for Expo, and for you, our esteemed International Participants. We continue to deploy all recommended measures to protect the health of workers, and are amending our practices and policies as required to adapt to developments on-site, and beyond.

The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) urges all contractors to act responsibly and proactively as we work to contain the spread of COVID-19. It requires that all contractors shield immediately all those in their workforce who are categorised as ‘vulnerable’; that is workers over the age of 50, and those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, or heart or respiratory conditions. Any staff who fall into this category must be separated from the general workforce, for their protection.

The DHA also requires that all contractors isolate immediately any members of the workforce that test positive for COVID-19, for a period of 14 days. The large majority of those who test positive experience mild or moderate symptoms, and contractors are required to separate these cases from the wider workforce, and continue monitoring symptoms. Only in the event of severe symptoms should contractors request that the DHA extract patients for treatment at medical facilities, so as to better manage the pressure on healthcare services.

The DHA continues to operate testing facilities at the Expo 2020 Dubai site, for all those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Those found to be positive can then be either isolated or admitted to medical facilities, dependent on the severity of symptoms. Furthermore, Expo and our International Participant community has a dedicated DHA liaison available at all times to help protect the health and safety of our workforces. In this spirit, paying careful attention to cases as they arise, work can and should carry on in a responsible and safe manner.

I wish you all well, and will continue to update you directly as required.

Yours sincerely,

Reem Al Hashimy
UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, Director General Expo 2020 Dubai