

# COVID-19: WORKING REMOTELY – TIPS FOR TEAM MEMBERS

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, many federal public servants are now working from home, some for the first time. Here are a few tips to help.

## COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE

- Find the right communication tools to make up for the loss of face-to-face time.
- Communicate frequently using a variety of channels, like the telephone and email.
- Respond quickly to email requests if you can, if only to specify a time you will be able to respond more fully.
- Find a way to interact informally through virtual water cooler or coffee chats.
- Check in and inquire about other members of the team on a regular basis.

## HONESTY AND TRUST

- Honesty is possibly the most important way to promote trust. Trusting other team members makes the team more effective.
- You are not alone! Don't be afraid to ask for help from your team leader and team members.

## SUPPORT YOUR TEAM

- Help each other be right.
- Share your ideas and expertise.
- Work together with a sense of energy and team spirit.
- Prioritize getting along with your team members. Foster a climate of respect in which members feel safe to explore new ideas.
- Recognize a job well done.

## STAY MOTIVATED AND ORGANIZED

- The nature of remote work requires self-management. Self-motivation and self-discipline are essential for team members.
- Stay organized. Have a plan for the day, but be prepared to pivot!
- Manage your time efficiently and keep team members up to date on important deadlines.
- Define your working hours, and respect your start and finish times.

## CARE FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Try not to work longer than your regular working hours. Others you care for also depend on you.
- Get some rest, eat a balanced diet and use your communication devices to continue to stay in touch with others.

## • LEAD WITH KINDNESS

## • BE PROACTIVE

## • SEEK SOLUTIONS

## • OFFER TO HELP

We thank the Public Health Agency of Canada for sharing much of this advice.