

Date: April 14, 2020
Subject: Post COVID-19 Restart Update
To: Auria Fremont Associates

First and foremost, I hope that each of you along with your family and friends are managing to stay safe and healthy through this extremely difficult time in the recent history of our nation and the world. This is truly the most important part of the actions we have taken and the plans we are currently developing. Like most of the country, this concern includes the plans to re-start our business and again provide jobs and the associated economic impact to our community.

The thing that I want you to know about this letter is that our situation continues to change on nearly a daily basis. As such, my comments are based on the information available to us today. Our customers are each planning to restart vehicle production during May. The initial production will be the week of May 4 with a slow increase in production through the month. However, the forecast volumes through the end of August do not reach levels that were like our volumes prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. On a positive note, the Chrysler RT program has changed to run through the end of August 2020.

What does this all mean for Auria Fremont?

Our current plan is to begin the recall process with very few employees to prepare the plant during the week of April 27. We will all have new guidelines to follow to keep ourselves and each other safe and healthy. We are exploring options to provide items such as washable masks for each employee, additional cleaning expectations and the resources to meet new guidelines, social distancing expectations in common areas such as the break areas, etc.

Then, starting the week of May 4, we will begin to recall more resources to re-start the plant for production. Currently, the recall increases each week to follow our customer re-start schedules. With the current volumes, we do not see the need for three shifts of production though the August information that is available. We do not have good information beyond August at this point. We would still have limited activity such as shipping and maintenance on 3rd shift, but no production on 3rd shift would be planned at this time.

With this as a background, we will be conducting a survey to determine shift preferences based on only having production on two shifts and a second question to determine the preferences if volume would return to a level that supports production on three shifts. We know that this creates confusion and uncertainty. But I know that each of you recognizes that our intent is to develop plans with the best possible input from each of you.

Jerry L. Rimstidt
Plant Manager – Auria Fremont