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We Put a Face on the American Auto Industry

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FCA Starts Reopening Its Production Sites

FCA is getting back to business.

In a statement to the media on May 18, FCA officials stated that after “welcoming back nearly 12,000 employees to our U.S. manufacturing facilities today, we successfully resumed production of our award-winning vehicles under a comprehensive, multi-layered program of health and safety measures designed with the single purpose of safeguarding employees.”

“We were pleased with today’s restart. Everyone followed the new protocols and our plants were fully staffed to start production. We expected nothing less from FCA’s incredible employees. We are very confident that we have all the right protection measures in place to keep them all safe.”

“We also want to thank our dedicated team of employees whose leadership and ingenuity helped prepare our facilities for today’s successful restart.”

Any hourly or salaried FCA employee in the metro Detroit area exhibiting symptoms before or during their shift will be referred for COVID-19 PCR testing through one of five major Beaumont Health testing centers designated for FCA employees.

FCA is targeting same-day appointments and expecting results



Employees at the Warren Truck Assembly go through new safety protocols to restart operations.

to be available in 24 hours or less. Similar testing arrangements have been made for out-of-state employees through Ascension St. Vincent in Kokomo, Ind., Swedish American Hospital in Belvidere, Ill., and Promedica Hospital in Toledo, Ohio.

FCA will send home employees

who are tested positive until they are medically cleared to return to work. Employees will get paid during a 14-day quarantine ordered by a doctor. FCA employees also will receive face masks, safety glasses and gloves, if needed, each day at the start of their shift.

Facilities have opened on different days, said FCA spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

On May 18, FCA’s Jefferson North Assembly Plant in Detroit, Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, Sterling Stamping Plant, Toledo

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GM’s Launching New Health Procedures to Open Plants

General Motors is getting back to work.

GM spokesman Dan Flores, in an email statement to the *Detroit Auto Scene* wrote, “GM had a handful of manufacturing plants that restarted on Monday, May 11th. We restarted production at most North American component and assembly plants on Monday, May 18th on one shift with our new safety protocols in place. So far, our cadenced restart has gone smoothly.”

“Before we restarted production Monday, all employees completed a comprehensive orientation on our new protocols and we have received very strong, positive feedback from both our employees and UAW leaders on our efforts to keep people safe. Our multi-layered safety protocols are important because they work together to help keep COVID-19 out of our facilities, and prevent transmission of the virus if an infected person should enter the site.”

“Safety will continue to be our guiding principle as we continue moving forward. We will add shifts and continue to ramp up production as it makes sense.”

Dr. Jeffery Hess, GM’s Corporate Medical director, in a statement on GM’s special COVID-19 page, wrote that without “question, COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. Everything from how we work, play, learn and socialize has dramatically changed in an effort to flatten the curve and save as many lives as possible. And while families and communities are craving a sense of normalcy and know that includes a return to the workplace, the unknown of what to expect is understandably daunting.”

As economies around the globe begin to restart, General Motors wants to be part of the solution and provide employees with the tools and knowledge needed to return to the workplace with confidence, Hess wrote. He added that the company does not take the decision to resume operations lightly as we understand the health of our people extends to their families, communities, and partners around the world.

“This is why we have worked with internal and external experts to develop a robust, multi-layered protection approach, custom-tailored for each of our facilities,” Hess wrote. “Our approach has been created based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization guidelines, and we have been intentional about receiving best practices and advice from countries that have already reopened successfully.”

Hess also completed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the public to read.

Questions and answers include:

How were the GM return-to-work safety procedures and protocols developed and validated? – “Our approach is based on CDC and WHO guidelines and is

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Ford Production Comes With New Health Rules

Ford has signed contracts with health systems in four metro areas where the Dearborn automaker has major company facilities. The move is to quickly test hourly and salaried employees with suspected symptoms of COVID-19.

This announcement came the same day that Ford officially started up production.

On May 18, the company issued a statement to the media declaring that “Ford started resuming production and operations in the United States today.”

“The company has implemented robust safety and care measures globally to help support a safe and healthy environment for the company’s workforce, including health assessment measures, personal protective equipment and facility modifications to increase social distancing.”

In Southeast Michigan, Ford will work with Beaumont Health for testing, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker. In Louisville, Ford employees will be tested through University of Louisville Health.

“In the Kansas City area, employees will be tested through Liberty Hospital. In the Chicago area, through the University of Chicago Medical Center and UChicago Medicine-Ingalls Memorial Hospital.

“Fast and accurate testing is a key tool in the effort to help stop the spread of COVID-19,” said Dr. Walter Talamonti, Ford Medical director. “These contracts will allow us to test employees with suspected symptoms and have results back within 24 hours.”

“If they test positive, we can quickly identify close contact employees who may have been



Ford has implemented robust safety and care measures globally to help support a safe and healthy environment.

exposed and ask them to self-quarantine for 14 days.”

In Southeast Michigan, where Ford employs approximately 46,000 people, employees who exhibit symptoms associated with COVID-19 will receive a prescription for testing from Ford’s onsite doctors, Felker said. This prescription allows employees to receive testing through Beaumont Health.

In Louisville, where Ford has two major assembly plants and employs approximately 12,500 people, employees who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to immediately schedule a telemedicine appointment with a doctor.

The doctor can then write a prescription for COVID-19 testing if necessary. Testing will be done through University of Louisville Health, Felker said.

In the Kansas City area, where Ford builds the best-selling F-150 and employs more than 7,000 people, employees who exhibit symptoms associated with COVID-19 will receive a prescription from Ford’s onsite doctors for testing. They can then access a drive-through testing site at Liberty Hospital.

In the Chicago area, home of Chicago Assembly and Chicago Stamping plants, which together employ nearly 7,000 people, Ford will advise employees who sus-

pect or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 to call the COVID number of the University of Chicago Medical Center and UChicago Medicine-Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Felker said.

After a phone screening, they will be given a same-day appointment for COVID-19 testing when appropriate. In all locations, the goal is to have results available within 24 hours. Testing results will be simultaneously shared with Ford doctors in order to quickly identify others who were in close contact with infected employees and immediately have them self-quarantine for 14 days.

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view this week’s edition at **DetroitAutoScene.com**

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- Body Shop is now **OPEN** for Full Repairs! Hours are 8am - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday.

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FCA Begins Opening Up Its Plants for New Production

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Assembly Complex, Toledo Machining Plant, Trenton Engine Complex, Warren Stamping Plant and Warren Assembly Plant started operations.

On May 19, FCA's Brampton Assembly Plant and Windsor Assembly Plant opened up in Ontario, Canada.

On May 26, FCA is opening its Dundee (Mich.) Engine Plant, the Indiana Transmission Plant 1 in Kokomo, Ind., the Kokomo Casting Plant, the Kokomo Transmission Plant, and the Tipton Transmission Plant in Tipton, Ind.

On June 1, the Belvidere Assembly Plant in Belvidere, Ill., is scheduled to be opened, along with the Etobicoke Casting Plant in Toronto.

Tinson said that these facilities will use strict health and safety rules to protect employees.

The safety protocols include:

- Completion of Daily Health Risk Assessment, including temperature check and self-screening questionnaire, for both employees and visitors. Thermal imaging cameras to verify temperatures of everyone entering an FCA facility.
- Masks and safety glasses will be required personal protection equipment for everyone in all facilities.
- Staggered start times and added time to breaks and lunch to minimize large gatherings.
- 10 minutes dedicated to cleaning and disinfecting workstations at the start of each shift.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting schedules developed for common and high-traffic areas, including turnstiles, restrooms, cafeterias, locker rooms and conference rooms.

Ford Starts Up Production, Enforces Health Protocols

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"We are working on quickly expanding testing of symptomatic employees," said Ken Washington, Ford's chief technology officer. "The health and safety of our employees has been – and remains – our top priority as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to expanding locations for these tests, we are also pursuing the possibility of voluntary antibody testing in the future for our employees."

Ford is initially focusing on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, which identifies if someone is actively infected. PCR tests are used to detect the presence of viral RNA, not the presence of the antibodies, which are the body's immune response.

"Fast, accurate tests work hand-in-hand with personal protection equipment and protocols to create a safe environment for our workforce," said Gary Johnson, Ford's chief Manufacturing and Labor Affairs officer. "We are proud to partner with the UAW to lead the way on restarting our factories the right way."

Testing is the most recent addition to Ford's health and safety protocols in place in the company's facilities.

To guide the workforce with he

new health and safety protocols, Ford has compiled a comprehensive Manufacturing Return to Work playbook to help protect its workforce, assembled using best practices and input from experts around the world.

Some of the safety protocols include daily online employee and visitor health self-certifications completed before work every day.

Employees or visitors who indicate they may have symptoms or may have been exposed to the virus will be told not to come to Ford facilities, Felker said.

There will also be no-touch temperature scans upon arrival – anyone with a raised temperature will not be permitted to enter and will need to be cleared of symptoms before returning to work.

Everyone entering a Ford facility will be required to wear face masks. Every Ford team member will be provided a care kit including face masks and other items to help keep them healthy and comfortable at work.

Safety glasses with side shields or face shields will be required when jobs don't allow for social distancing.

There will be more time between production shifts to limit interaction between employees and allow for additional cleaning.

GM's Launching New Health Procedures to Open Plants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

informed by global standardized processes we developed for use in China and Korea – as well as input from union leadership.

"We have designed extensive procedures guided by the country and the world's experts. We've coupled the experts' guidelines and scientific data to help keep everyone safe when they arrive at the workplace, perform their jobs and leave."

What will entering a GM facility look like, and how will employees maintain their safety throughout the day? – "We have a COVID-19 Employee Guide designed to prepare employees for screening and entry procedures, sanitization and PPE, break protocols, facility departure/disposal of PPE, and returning home directions. This document is intended to answer a lot of those questions

before anyone walks through the doors.

"The simplest and most important example is the fact that every person entering a GM facility will be provided with and is required to wear a face mask at all times, except when eating or drinking. Homemade masks are not permitted.

"Upon arrival, employees will also encounter visual aids designed to ensure physical distancing, complete a simple COVID-19 questionnaire, and be reminded about hand sanitizing and face masks. They will also undergo temperature screening to help prevent people with a fever from exposing others to potential infection.

"Changes throughout our facilities also include steps to ensure sanitization and physical distancing protocols for work stations, and actions to lessen interaction with door handles and improve ventilation."

GM Lordstown Fuel Cell Construction Starting Up

Not even the COVID-19 crisis can stop GM from going ahead with its plans to create an EV future for the auto industry.

Construction has started with ground prep activities for the future site of the Ultium battery cell manufacturing facility in Lordstown, Ohio, said GM spokeswoman Megan Soule. Ultium Cells LLC is the name of the General Motors and LG Chem joint venture for cell manufacturing.

During the pandemic, product development work on GM's future EV and AV portfolios continues to progress at a rapid pace, Soule said.

The Cruise Origin was revealed in San Francisco earlier this year, and production timing remains on track for the yet-to-be-revealed Cadillac Lyriq and GMC HUMMER EV, all powered by the Ultium battery system.

GM first revealed its plans for the Ultium fuel cells in early April, Soule said, when the company and Honda agreed to jointly develop two all-new electric vehicles for Honda, based on GM's highly flexible global EV platform powered by proprietary Ultium batteries.

The exteriors and interiors of the new EVs will be designed exclusively by Honda, and the platform will be engineered to support Honda's driving character.

The plan agreement calls for production of these Honda electric vehicles to combine the development expertise of both



This rendering of the Ultium Cells battery cell manufacturing site in Lordstown, Ohio, shows what it will look like after construction.

companies, and the vehicles will be manufactured at GM plants in North America. Sales are expected to begin in the 2024 model year in Honda's United States and Canadian markets.

GM and Honda have an ongoing relationship around electrification, Soule said. This includes work on fuel cells and the Cruise Origin, an electric, self-driving and shared vehicle, which was revealed in San Francisco earlier this year. Honda also joined GM's battery module development efforts in 2018.

"This collaboration will put together the strength of both companies, while combined scale and manufacturing efficiencies will ultimately provide greater value to customers," said Rick Schostek, executive vice president of American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

"This expanded partnership will unlock economies of scale to accelerate our electrification roadmap and advance our industry-leading efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"We are in discussions with one another regarding the possi-

bility of further extending our partnership."

According to Doug Parks, GM executive vice president of Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain, "This agreement builds on our proven relationship with Honda, and further validates the technical advancements and capabilities of our Ultium batteries and our all-new EV platform.

"Importantly, it is another step on our journey to an all-electric future and delivering a profitable EV business through increased

scale and capacity utilization. We have a terrific history of working closely with Honda, and this new collaboration builds on our relationship and like-minded objectives."

As part of the agreement to jointly develop electric vehicles, Honda will incorporate GM's On-Star safety and security services into the two EVs, seamlessly integrating them with HondaLink.

Additionally, Schostek said, Honda plans to make GM's hands-free advanced driver-assist technology available.



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