



# COVID-19 in Construction

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# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 IN OUR WORKPLACE?

- Easily spread through respiratory droplets and aerosols from an infected person
- New highly contagious strains now identified
- Some may be infected and not know
- It has caused much illness and death around the world

# STRUGGLES OF COVID-19 IN THE WORKPLACE

- Is it present in our workplace?
- Are there controls present?
- Are the controls we have in place working?
- Do we have the right equipment?



# STRUGGLES OF COVID-19 IN THE WORKPLACE

- Do we have enough equipment
- Are workers using the equipment
- Do you have a COVID-19 Safety Plan



# STOP THE SPREAD – HOW?

- Daily screening
- COVID-19 Risk Assessment
- Stay home when not feeling well
- Encourage frequent handwashing
- Use hand sanitizer
- Personal protective equipment
- Ventilation
- Social distancing
- Cleaning
- Discourage travel
- Use your resources



# DAILY SCREENING

- When employees get on site
- When visitors come on site
- Before arriving on site
- Electronically submitted or on paper
- Screening form review
- Document retention
- Don't forget temperature checks!

## **SCREENING STATION**

### **REPORT ANY SYMPTOMS**

#### **INCLUDING:**

- **FEVER**
- **COUGH**
- **SHORTNESS  
OF BREATH**

# COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT

- Complete a risk assessment to understand the hazard and help determine controls, reassessing along the way
- Download one for free
  - <https://thesafetybus.com/free-stuff/>

# STAY HOME WHEN NOT FEELING WELL

- If symptoms are identified, do not go to work
- Report to your supervisor if you have symptoms
- Get a COVID-19 test
- Report the results to your supervisor
- If a worker tests positive for COVID-19 due to exposure at the workplace, or has filed a claim with the WSIB, you must give notice in writing within four days to:
  - the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
  - the workplace's joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative
  - the worker's trade union (if applicable)
- Additionally, you must report any occupationally acquired illnesses to the WSIB within three days of receiving notification of the illness.



# ENCOURAGE FREQUENT HANDWASHING

- Should wash for at least 20 seconds
- Make sure your entire hand gets washed
- Use soap and warm water
- Dry your hands properly
- If warm water is not readily available on-site, consider a portable water heater
  - [Portable tankless water heater](#)

# USE HAND SANITIZER

- Where soap and warm water isn't available
- Best alternative to hand washing
- Make sure the bottle has a DIN number (Health Canada Drug Identification Number)

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



**PLEASE USE  
HAND SANITIZER  
BEFORE ENTERING**

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Gloves if sharing tools or workspaces
- Masks at all times, even outdoors
  - covering the mouth and nose
- Safety glasses or goggles to prevent eye contact



# VENTILATION

- keep windows and doors open as much as possible
- use portable ventilation fans
- continue ventilation and air exchange after regular work hours where feasible

# VENTILATION

- limit how much time workers are indoors or in enclosed spaces, particularly with other people; alternate indoor and outdoor tasks
- use available outdoor space whenever possible, for example, for meetings, breaks and appropriate work tasks
- consider scheduling tasks in a different order than usual to provide as much fresh air as possible throughout the project

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

- one trade is working in a space at a time where possible
- limit the number of people in the project trailer or lunchrooms at one time
- hold meetings outside or in a large spaces
- set up one-way staircases and corridors wherever practical
- limit the number of people who use elevators and hoists at one time

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

- limit the number of people inside a vehicle and/or increase number of trips to allow for physical distancing
- make sure everyone knows the capacity limits for the spaces they are using
- conduct work area inspections to verify workers are practicing physical distancing
- communicate to workers that they should notify the supervisor of any concerns about practices or procedures that may affect physical distancing
- use signage to reinforce your policies and control measures

# CLEANING

- provide access to soap and water
- provide hand cleanser to remove grease, grime and oil and an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is between 60% and 90% alcohol when providing water is not feasible and in addition to hand washing stations
- clean washroom facilities regularly and provide a safe place for waste disposal
- do more frequent maintenance of the wash up facilities and ensure adequate amounts of soap, water, cleaners and disinfectant are available in the workplace



# CLEANING

- sanitize commonly touched surfaces and equipment (such as hoists, site trailers, door handles)
- clean lunch room and other common room surfaces frequently
- avoid sharing of hand tools, powered equipment and other items (such as limit use of common pens for sign-in sheets to construction sites). If sharing is necessary, sanitize the tools, equipment and other items between uses

# DISCOURAGE TRAVEL

- Have workers stay at one site only where possible, rather than travel between sites
- Avoid unnecessary travel outside of the Province or Country
- If a worker does travel, ensure they isolate for 14 days where required
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-self-isolation-and-return-work>

# USE YOUR RESOURCES

- Industrial Safety Trainers – [www.thesafetybus.com](http://www.thesafetybus.com)
- Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace>
- IHSA - <https://www.ihsa.ca/Urgent-Notices/COVID-19-Main.aspx>
- Ontario website – [www.covid-19.ontario.ca](http://www.covid-19.ontario.ca)
- Canada website – <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources.html>
- Your local health unit
- Your Employer and/or Supervisor
- Your JHSC

# WE CAN HELP!

- Assist with reviewing your COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Answer questions and provide recommendations
- Provide training and consulting services

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