

COVID-19 Prevention Procedures for Construction Sites

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, here is a list of safe work procedures for construction sites and supervisors.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Practice social distancing of two metres (six feet).
- Do not shake hands; avoid physical contact.

HYGIENE PRACTICES:

- Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds - before you eat, at the end of the workday, during the work shift whenever possible, and when you get home from work.
- Do not share food, drinks, cigarettes, and personal hand tools or personal devices such as cell phones.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose and/or mouth with unwashed hands (i.e. when smoking, drinking water, eating, etc).
- Follow good respiratory etiquette by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
- Regularly clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and tools as well as toilet and hand washing facilities.
- Encourage workers to follow same practices at home.

ACCOMMODATING WORKERS:

- Ensure that all workers are educated about company COVID-19 prevention protocols during their work orientation and regularly during jobsite toolbox talks. Should a worker request an accommodation due to a health condition that puts them at higher risk from COVID-19, a risk assessment would be undertaken. If existing COVID-19 prevention protocols do not address the risk, the worker will be accommodated so far as reasonably practicable.

HEALTH VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE AND VISITORS PRIOR TO SITE ACCESS:

- Question all site visitors and employees on the current status of their health - use the COVID-19 Worksite Screening Tool. Send persons home if they confirm illness or identify elevated risk through the use of the screening tool.
- At the start of shifts, the supervisor is to confirm the health status of contractor worker through discussion with the contractor supervisor and notify HSE manager of any issues. Document issues.
- The supervisor, each day, is to ask for updates of workers who have left the site for self-isolation. Document changes.
- At the end of shifts, the supervisor to confirm the health status of contractor workers through discussion with the contractor supervisor and notify HSE manager of any issues.
- Detailed tracking of worker's status on-site are kept at all time (e.g., fit to work, sick, off-work for family caring duties, etc.). A list of all quarantined workers is updated daily and their privacy maintained.

COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS:

- Clear signage is posted at entry points on the construction site and outline the commitment of the contractor to maintain health and safety measures during the COVID-19 crisis, including any daily updates on the latest developments and guidelines from Manitoba Public Health.

PROJECT OFFICES/TRAILERS:

- Restrict access and place contact information (phone number) outside on door.
- Limit the number of workers or restrict who is allowed to enter those offices.
- Maintain the social distance requirements.
- Do not touch items - "keep your hands to yourself".
- Do not share keyboard or mouse, pens, clipboards, or documents.
- Disinfect commonly touched items like door handles, chairs, tables, etc.
- Handrails leading up to the trailer or office, do not slide your hand down them and routinely disinfect.

MEETINGS AT SITE:

- Limit the number of meetings and the number of participants; ensure social distancing protocol.
- If possible, hold meetings in open areas or outside to facilitate effective social distancing.

PROJECT ORIENTATIONS:

- Limit the number of persons in the orientation with a chair spacing between workers. This may require hosting the video orientation sessions more often. Where practical, move orientation outdoors and conduct a verbal orientation - reinforce social distancing.
- Use the COVID-19 Worksite Screening Tool questions to verify that workers are not feeling sick and so they are aware of what the symptoms are so they can self-monitor.
- Disinfect used pens, tables, and chairs after each orientation.
- As part of the verbal orientation, discuss:
 - Social distancing of two metres (six feet).
 - Hygiene and location of hand washing and hand sanitization stations.
 - What the company is doing at the site to promote a safe workplace.
 - Where the safety posters are located.
 - The importance of reporting to their supervisor if they are feeling unwell and leaving the project.

RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUBCONTRACTOR COVID-19 PLAN:

- How is their plan being applied to their workers?

WHEN WEARING GLOVES:

- Do not touch your face, eyes, or mouth.
- Make sure that hands are washed thoroughly or disinfected with hand sanitizer as soon as possible after gloves are removed.

LUNCHROOM:

- Post signs to remind workers to wash or disinfect their hands before and after eating.
- Stagger coffee/lunch breaks to reduce the number of workers in the lunchroom at the same time.
- Maintain social distancing by staggering the seating arrangement, or don't eat in the lunchroom.
- Remove garbage can often.
- Routinely disinfect the tables and other commonly handled items.
- Ensure sufficient fresh air supply to reduce "recirculating" the air inside the lunchroom.
- Separate PPE and clothing that is hung up in the lunchroom to avoid touching.
- If you have to take your spare work clothing home, place it in a plastic bag and do not take it out of the plastic bag until it goes into the laundry to be washed - ideally separately.

WORK LOCATIONS:

- Maintain social distancing of two metres (six feet) between workers.
- Stagger work crews to reduce the number of people on site, if possible.
- Where possible, reduce the number of partner workers. Don't mix workers on crews.

TOOLS AND PROJECT RADIOS:

- Disinfect radios at start of shift and regularly throughout the shift.
- Avoid sharing tools or equipment.
- If you have to share equipment, clean and disinfect points of contact on the equipment.

FIRST AID TREATMENT:

- First aid attendants are to wear N95 mask or 1/2 mask respirator, face shield, and medical gloves when treating workers.
- If conscious and capable of answering, ask the worker the COVID-19 Worksite Screening Tool questions to verify the current status of their health.