



## COVID-19 / Corona Virus Practices for Construction Sites

With respect to the provincial government's requirements\* for construction sites during the pandemic, consider the following practices for your site:

### **Screen & Document:**

- Instruct workers to report symptoms by filling out a sign in sheet with a spot for symptoms at the start of each day. Educate or provide links to resources regarding employment insurance to encourage sick people to stay at home. (See the self assessment tool <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>)
- Instruct workers to report sick from home. In person proof of symptoms is not required.
- Keep track of who went home, why and when. This will help give you an idea on who should and should not be at site yet. Include if they are a confirmed case and update if they become one.

### **Sanitize:**

- Wear work gloves at all times as a best practice and avoid touching your face
- Clean common areas like lunchrooms, doorknobs, handrails on site trailers and portable washrooms as often as possible, most often on frequently used places or busier times. Do so using gloves & disinfectant wipes or spray.
- Wood handrails are porous and will require being sprayed with disinfectant that works on that kind of surface such as CaviCide. Cleaning companies can also be called in after hours for disinfectant of common areas that are safe to access.
- Sanitize frequently used items like tools and ladders
- At lunch, workers should remove work gloves and wash or sanitize their hands before eating. Avoid touching food with hands, use wrappers as an extra barrier to hold food instead.

### **Distance:**

- Maintain 2 meters / 6 feet of distance between each other
- Provide nitrile gloves to be used when flipping through plans, limit number of people accessing plans, have foreman use electronic copies
- Individuals should use their own tools and avoid sharing whenever possible
- Monitor in order to limit gatherings in lunchrooms – have workers take turns coming in to use the microwave
- Have workers eat away from the potential of others talking or coughing onto their food
- Limit gatherings in other areas like tool cribs. Take turns accessing small areas, avoid working on top of each other even if it means slowing things down
- Take turns going through doorways, stairwells and tight halls



- All toolbox talks to be held outside, with workers maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart
- Large sites may want to pass information down to foreman and then onto their crew through smaller talks to limit gatherings
- Orientations should be conducted outside, borrowed pens should be cleaned immediately, workers to wear gloves
- Avoid communal food like doughnuts and Timbits. Individually wrapped food only.

#### **Humanity:**

- Be polite and respectful of each other. There is a lot of fear and with respect we can navigate this event with our humanity intact. If you are worried about another person on site being sick, speak with the management or your supervisor privately about your concerns.
- A lot of these measures will slow progress on site but we are hopeful that they will keep sites up and running as long as safely possible!

\*Government of BC Recommendations for Construction, March 22, 2020:

- There should be no more than 50 people in the same space in any circumstances.
- Where possible employees should maintain a distance of 2 metres apart from each other.
- Post signage that limits the number of occupants in any elevator to four people at a time.
- Reduce in-person meetings and other gatherings and hold site meetings in open spaces or outside.
- Increase the number of handwashing stations and post signage that identifies their location.
- Maintain a list of employees that are currently working on sites and update this list daily.
- All common areas and surfaces should be cleaned at the end of each day. Examples include washrooms, shared offices, common tables, desks, light switches, and door handles.
- Anyone with COVID-19 like symptoms such as sore throat, fever, sneezing, or coughing must self-isolate at home for 14 days.

(<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0002-000542>)