

COVID-19 WORKPLACE PRACTICES

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the construction workplace, parties need to ensure that they maintain a healthy work environment. This means implementing measures to physically separate and increase distance between employees, including the following:

- Modify work schedules to stagger work, provide alternating workdays or extra shifts to reduce the total number of workers on a job site at any given time.
- Restrict access to reduce the number of workers in enclosed and confined areas at one time.
- Confined and enclosed areas (e.g., trailers, small rooms in buildings under construction) should be identified and access should be restricted to essential personnel only.
- Enclosed spaces (e.g., toilets, break areas) are potential transmission areas and should be treated accordingly. Time spent in these areas should be minimized.
- Rearrange administrative area work stations so that workers can stay at least 6 feet away from other workers.
- Install shields or barriers, such as plexiglass barriers, where possible.
- Remove or rearrange chairs and tables or add visual cue marks in break areas to support social distancing practices between workers. Identify alternative areas to accommodate overflow volume.
- Disinfect break or lunchroom areas between each group using the areas.
- Maintain social distancing when visiting lunch trucks or construction site vendors.
- Limit casual (social) conversations that normally occur at work and during smoke breaks. During smoke breaks workers should always maintain a safe distance of at minimum 6 feet apart.
- Workers and everyone on site should always be required to wear “masks or face coverings.”
- Both **masks and eye protection must be worn when working within 2 metres of another worker (both inside and outside)**. This is a requirement even when both workers are wearing masks.
- It is also important to note that prescription eye glasses without side shields would not be considered adequate eye protection.
- Workplaces and Unions should discourage carpooling

Additional Measures for Toilet Facilities

- Poor sanitation is a major cause of disease and can be a serious occupational health risk.
- It is the responsibility of employers, owners, builders, constructors, suppliers of equipment, and supervisors to ensure that all workplace parties comply with the provisions of the OHS Act and the regulations in order to protect workers from hazards in the workplace including the protection of workers from infectious diseases due to inadequate sanitation on construction projects.
- Wherever reasonably possible, water flush toilets that are connected to a sanitary sewer should be provided on worksites.
- The condition of toilets on worksites must be regularly monitored to ensure they are maintained to a high sanitary standard
- Soap/paper towel dispensers, hand dryers and hand sanitizing stations on site must be checked frequently and replenished as needed.