

COVID-19 and the Construction Industry Awareness Training

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Increase health and safety awareness for Construction Workers who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives

After completing this section, you will be able to:

- Explain basic facts about COVID-19.
- Assess the risk of workplace exposure to COVID-19.
- Define key steps in worker protection and infection control.
- Define protective measures employers should implement.







What is COVID-19?

- There are many types of coronavirus
 - Common cold
 - SARS and MERS
- COVID-19 is different in that it mimics other respiratory illnesses
 - Passes person to person
 - Spread through droplets and touch







SARS 2002 CoV-1



- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was notable in the way it is believed to have spread.
- Started in China in 2002.
- Spread to 37 countries worldwide by person-toperson contact during airplane travel.
- SARS demonstrated how quickly viruses spread in a world that is so interconnected by international travel.

- MERS situation in the U.S. represents a very low risk to the general public in this country.
- Only two patients in the U.S. have ever tested positive for MERS-CoV infection – both in May 2014 – while more than 500 have tested negative.
- Healthcare providers who lived and worked in Saudi Arabia.



MERS in the US



<u>CORONAVI</u>RUS (CoV-2) <u>DISEASE arising in 2019</u> = COVID-19



Range:

- **No symptoms**: but shedding and transmitting disease
- Mild: flu-like symptoms
- **Moderate**: flu-like symptoms that can last weeks
- Severe respiratory distress: ventilator
- Death



US Distribution Map as of 8/26/2020





For updates see: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html#2019coronavirus-summary

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Testing Limitations

- At start of pandemic in US, testing only via request to Health Department
- Testing continues to become more available but still limited
- On verge of more widespread testing capabilities
- Unknowns: Frequency of false negatives and false positives if we start to screen asymptomatic people



Photo Courtesy of NBC4 Washington DC



Transmission

COVID-19 is spread from person to person mainly through coughing, sneezing, and possibly talking, and breathing.





- <u>Aerosol</u> a solid particle or liquid droplet suspended in air
- <u>Contact</u> -Touching something with COVID-19 virus on it and then touching mouth, nose or eyes
- Other possible routes: Through fecal matter



How long do coronaviruses survive outside of the body?

- It is not clear yet how long the coronavirus can live on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses.
 - Virus may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days, depending on conditions and the type of surface.
- It is likely that it can be killed with simple disinfectant on the EPA registered list.
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more.



Incubation period

- The incubation period is the time between exposure to a virus and the onset of symptoms.
- With COVID-19 symptoms may show 2-14 days after exposure.
- People are most contagious when they are the most symptomatic.
- People who are infected may be contagious before they develop symptoms or even if they never develop symptoms.



SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.



Other symptoms may include:

- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Loss of smell or taste

COVID-19 Symptoms



CS 315252-A March 20, 2020, 12:51PM

cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms



Mild symptoms for COVID-19

- Most people will have mild symptoms and should recover at home and NOT go to the hospital or emergency room.
- Get medical attention immediately if you have:
 - > Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
 - > Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
 - > New confusion or inability to arouse.
 - Bluish lips or face.





Increased risk of severe illness

- COVID-19 poses a greater risk for severe illness for people with underlying health conditions:
 - Heart disease
 - Lung disease such as asthma
 - Diabetes
 - Suppressed immune systems
- The elderly have higher rates of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Children and younger adults have had less severe illness and death.
- Because COVID-19 is new there are a lot of scientific unknowns such as the impact on pregnant women and their fetuses.



When and How to Seek Care

When

- Moderate to severe flu-like symptoms if in a high-risk group (age > 65, underlying chronic conditions)
- Flu-like syndrome with increasing shortness of breath that may need hospital care

How

- Call your healthcare provider for guidance
- Do not go to office without calling – may be directed to a dedicated testing site
- If ambulance needed, warn EMS that it may be COVID-19
- Put on a mask if you have one



Treatment and vaccines

- There is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.
- There is no specific FDA approved medication or treatment for COVID-19.
- Treatment is supportive.
- People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 should isolate at home during their illness.









Precautionary principle

When it comes to worker safety, we should be driven by the 'PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE'

that reasonable steps to reduce risk should NOT await scientific certainty about the nature of the hazard or risk.



What are the steps in assessing risk?

Risk assessment is an employer responsibility that should involve workers, union reps, and supervisors.

1st Step: Do they have a process in place already?

- Safety and Health or Labor/Management Committee
- Task Force or Sub-Committee

2nd Step: What method will they employ?

- Inspection and job hazard analysis
- > Brainstorming (who, what when, how), other actions

3rd Step: How will they document the assessment?



Does your employer have a process that...

- Has clear decision makers?
- Includes all key stakeholders?
- Includes front line workers?
- Has clear lines of responsibility, accountability, and timelines?





COVID-19 workplace plan

- Management leadership and employee participation.
- Hazard identification and assessment.
- Hazard prevention and control.
- Education and training.
- Evaluation and improvement.
- Support for workers who are exposed.
- Mental health support for workers and their families.





Selection and implementation of safeguards

Using the results of the hazard analysis, determine what the potential exposures are.

Then select control measures using the hierarchy of controls.

Be sure to evaluate the controls and make adjustments as needed.



Protecting workers

Start with the most effective method to protect workers.



RESPONSE PLAN

Implementing a COVID Plan

- Designate a site-specific COVID-19 officer at every job site.
- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.



Implementing a COVID Plan: Training

- Train workers with the most recent information on:
 - Hazard and control measures
 - Social distancing
 - Handwashing facilities on site
 - How high-touch surfaces are disinfected.





Implementing a COVID Plan: Screening

- Ask workers to self-identify symptoms of fever, coughing, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell each day, before the shift, mid-shift, and at home.
- Screen all workers for fever at the beginning of shifts and when they become ill on the job.
- Thermometers must be 'no touch' or 'no contact'.





Implementing a COVID Plan: Screening

- Workers with COVID-19 and other workers who have had close contact with those workers should be put on sick leave.
 - Local health departments should be notified.
 - The area where the sick person worked should be immediately disinfected.
- Ensure affected workers receive paid sick leave as required under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).
- U.S. Department of Labor's poster about FFCRA paid sick leave should be posted at the workplace.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAV UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 PAID LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS Generally, employers covered under the Act must provide employees Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage, paid at IOO% for gualifying reasons #1-3 below, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total. • 34 for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 below, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total; and Up to 12 weeks of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave paid at ²/₂ for gualifying reason #5 below for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total. A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work more that neriod ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES In general, employees of private sector employers with fewer than 500 employees, and certain public sector employers, are eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons (see below). Employees who have been employed for at least 30 days prior to their leave request may be eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below. QUALIFYING REASONS FOR LEAVE RELATED TO COVID-19 An employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to telework, because the employee: 1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or 5. is caring for his or her child whose school or isolation order related to COVID-19: place of care is closed (or child care provider is un available) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or 2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19; 6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of 3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking Health and Human Services a medical diagnosis: 4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2): **ENFORCEMENT** The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has the authority to investigate and enforce compliance with the FFCRA Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who lawfully takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, files a complaint, or institutes a proceeding under or related to this Act. Employers in violation of the provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to penalties and enforcement by WHD. For additional information or to file a complaint: WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION 1-866-487-9243 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TTY: 1-877-889-5627

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters /FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf ³⁰

dol.gov/agencies/whd

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Implementing a COVID Plan: Social distancing

Create	At least 6 feet of space between workers by staging/staggering crews.			
Modify	Work schedules to stagger work, provide alternating workdays or extra shifts to reduce the total number of employees on a job site at any given time.			
Identify	Choke points where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, ingress and egress points, break areas, and buses.			
Implement	Policies to maintain social distancing.			



Implementing a COVID Plan: Social distancing

- In elevators and personnel hoists, ensure six feet distance between passengers in all directions and equip operator with appropriate respirator and other personal protective equipment.
- Minimize interactions when picking up or delivering equipment or materials.
- Organize the placement of materials to minimize movement on the work site.





Implementing a COVID Plan: Decontamination

- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces on job sites and in offices – such as shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, doorknobs, and portable toilets – frequently, per CDC guidelines.
- Make disinfectants available to workers throughout the worksite and ensure supplies are frequently replenished.



Contact time for disinfection isimportant!EPA
Reg.Active
Improduct NameProduct NameCompany

- The EPA list and product labels include contact time.
- Contact time is the time the product must remain WET to kill the virus.
- Observe that the area is visibly wet for the entire contact time.
- Check expiration dates!
- Check SDS's HAZCOM

EPA Reg. Number	Active Ingredient(s)	Product Name	Company	To kill SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), follow disinfection directions for the following virus(es)	Contact Time (in minutes)
5813-58	Quaternary ammonium	Spruce-ups	The Clorox Company	Rotavirus	0.25
92987-1	Sodium chlorite; Citric acid	Tristel Duo for Surfaces	Tristel Solutions LTD	Adenovirus; Feline calicivirus; Poliovirus	0.5
56392-8	Sodium hypochlorite	Dispatch	Clorox Professional Products Company	Adenovirus	1
34810-35	Citric acid	Cleancide	Wexford Labs Inc	Feline calicivirus	5
1677-241	Sodium hypochlorite	Hydris	Ecolab Inc	Human coronavirus	5
5813-86	Glycolic acid	СВЖ	The Clorox Company	Human coronavirus	10
70627-6	Phenolic	Phenolic Disinfectant HG	Diversey Inc	Human coronavirus	10



Implementing a COVID Plan: Personal Hygiene

Employers should:

- Provide soap and running water whenever possible on all job sites for frequent handwashing.
- If it is not possible to provide running water, disclose the reasons to your workers.
- Encourage workers to leave their workstations to wash their hands before and after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.





Photo courtesy of PolyJohn Enterprises

Implementing a COVID Plan: Personal Hygiene

Employers should:

 ✓ Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as a backup only if providing running water is impossible.





Implementing a COVID Plan: Respiratory protection

- If workers need to be near each other to perform tasks or when working in close quarters, such as confined space work, they should wear a NIOSH-approved respirator.
- Implement a full respiratory protection program according to the 1910.134 Respirator Standard.





Implementing a COVID Plan: Respiratory protection

- NIOSH-approved respirators include filtering facepiece and elastomeric negative or positive pressure half or full facepiece respirators equipped with N95, N99, N100, R95, P95, P99, or P100 filters.
- Cloth face coverings are NOT respirators and DO NOT replace physical distancing or respirators required when workers are in close proximity.
- Cloth face coverings should be provided in other circumstances when required or recommended by state or local governments.



- Be informed and prepared.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues if you cough or sneeze or do so into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as cell phones.









• WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY.

- When hand washing with soap and water isn't available;
 - ✓Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.





Five steps to proper handwashing

- 1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- 2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- 3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- 4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- 5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.





SICK? PLEASE STAY HOME.

What Can Workers Do?



- \checkmark Don't go to work if you are feeling sick
- \checkmark Don't go to work if you have a fever
- Don't go to work if you have cough or shortness of breath
- ✓ Avoid contact with sick people

- Avoid large gatherings or meetings of 10 people or more
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others on job sites and in gatherings, meetings, and training sessions
- Don't shake hands when greeting others.





- Bring food and water bottles from home to the job site and do not share.
- No passengers or carpooling.
- Drive to worksites or parking areas by yourself.





Wipe down/disinfect:

- ✓ Interiors and door handles of machines or construction vehicles.
- ✓ The handles of equipment and tools that are shared.





- If possible, shower and change clothing before going home.
- If not, shower when you get home.
- Launder clothing separate from the family's clothing.





Objectives Review

We:

- Discussed the basic facts about COVID-19.
- Assess the risk of workplace exposure to COVID-19.
- Defined key steps of an COVID-19 Response Plan and how it effects worker protection and infection control.
- Defined protective measures employers should implement as part of an COVID-19 Response Plan.





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QUESTIONS?

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<u>www.cpwr.com</u>