

April 2020

## COVID-19 Recommended Best Practices for Construction Jobsites

The following recommended best practices are based on what is currently known about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. As this issue progresses or recedes, we strongly recommend you stay current and immediately implement the most current best practices to protect the safety and health of your employees, trade partners, clients and the general public.

### Personal Responsibilities:

- It is critical that individuals NOT report to work while they are experiencing illness symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, chills, or fatigue.
- Individuals should seek medical attention if they develop these symptoms.

### Social Distancing:

- Do not host large group meetings. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC recommends to avoid gatherings of 10+ people; and when meeting, that we keep a 6-foot distance between people. Perform meetings online or via conference call whenever possible.
- To limit the number of people on a jobsite, allow non-essential personnel to work from home when possible.
- Discourage hand-shaking and other contact greetings.

### General Jobsite/Office Practices:

- Communicate key CDC recommendations (and post signage where appropriate) to your staff and tradespeople:
  1. How to Protect Yourself
  2. If You are Sick
  3. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
  4. Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Supervisors should ask the following questions to all employees prior to entering the jobsite. If they answer “yes” to any, they should be asked to leave the jobsite immediately. Anyone asked to leave should not return to work until 24-hours after they are free from a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
  1. Have you, or anyone in your family, been in contact with a person that is in the process of being tested for COVID-19?
  2. Have you, or anyone in your family traveled outside of the United States within the last two weeks?  
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  3. Have you been medically directed to self-quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19?
  4. Are you having trouble breathing or have you had flu-like symptoms within the past 48 hours, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, chills, or fatigue?

## **Routine Environmental Cleaning of Jobsite:**

- Routine cleaning shall be performed of all frequently touched surfaces on the jobsite. This includes, however is not limited to, workstations, countertops, handles, doorknobs, gang boxes, shared tools and equipment.
- The use of appropriate cleaning agents and directions shall be utilized to perform all cleaning. Ensure all exposed workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard. Employers must comply with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens, including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE.
- Portable bathrooms will be serviced at a minimum of three (3) times a week where we are responsible for the portable bathrooms. On jobsites where trade partners provide their own portable bathrooms, trades must also endeavor to have them serviced at a minimum of three (3) times a week.
- Hand sanitizer shall be provided in/or around all portable bathrooms.
- Project trailers/offices need to be cleaned daily.
- All common break areas, lunch and break rooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the workday.
- Do not congregate in lunch areas.
- No communal food shall be permitted on the jobsite until further notice, i.e., donuts, pizza, buffets, etc.
- All jobsite employees are required to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs shall be provided in the workplace. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Place hand rubs in multiple locations or in conference rooms to encourage hand hygiene.
- Do not share tools.
- Do not share personal protection equipment (PPE).
- Sanitize reusable PPE per manufacturer's recommendation prior to each use.
- Ensure used PPE is disposed of properly.
- Utilize disposable gloves where appropriate; instruct workers to wash hands after removing gloves.
- Disinfect reusable supplies and equipment.
- Identify specific locations and practices for daily trash such as: paper, hand towels, food containers, etc. Instruct workers responsible for trash removal in proper PPE/hand washing practices.
- Do not use a common water cooler. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
- Utilize shoe sanitation tubs (non-bleach sanitizer solution) prior to entering/leaving jobsite.
- Instruct workers to change work clothes prior to arriving home; and to wash clothes in hot water with laundry sanitizer.
- Don't stack trades if possible.
- Utilize disposable hand towels and no-touch trash receptacles.
- Avoid cleaning techniques, such as using pressurized air or water sprays that may result in the generation of bioaerosols.
- Clean surfaces of service/fleet vehicles, steering wheel, gear shift, instrument panels, etc.; use aerosol sanitizers inside closed cabs.
- In regards to shuttling employees, ensure distancing and encourage workers to provide their own transportation where possible.

## Managing Sick Employees:

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home. Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not return to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F [38.0° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least **24 hours**, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
- Separate sick employees. **CDC** recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately.
- Communicate your company's Human Resources practices for managing sick time related to **COVID-19**.