

7th May 2020

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Purpose:

This guidance is for leaders and workers in the construction industry to enable them to operate in a safe manner while reducing the spread of the disease in the Territory.

For Employee Health Protection – A ZERO Tolerance approach must be enforced.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SICK WORKERS REPORTING TO WORK.

IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME!

IF YOU FEEL SICK, GO HOME!

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE SICK, SEND THEM HOME!

Instruction for Workers

- If you are exhibiting any of the symptoms below, you are to report this to your supervisor (via phone, text or email) right away, and head home from the job site or stay home if already there.
- If you notice a co-worker showing signs or complaining about such symptoms, he or she should be directed to their supervisor (via phone, text or email) and asked to leave the project site immediately.

COVID-19 Typical Symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell

Self-certify prior to shift

Prior to starting a shift, each employee will self-certify to their supervisor that they:

- Have no signs of a fever or a measured temperature above 100.3 degrees or greater, a cough, loss of taste or smell or trouble breathing within the past 24 hours.

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- Have not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. "Close contact" means: living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for about 15 minutes, coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official.
- Workers that are working in a confined space or inside a closed building envelope will have to be temperature screened by a trained individual provided that such screening is out of public view to respect privacy and results are kept private.
- Employees exhibiting symptoms or unable to self-certify should be directed to leave the work site, go home and call 852-7650 to seek medical attention and applicable testing by their health care provider. They are not to return to the work site until cleared by a medical or Public Health professional.

General On-the-Job Guidance to Prevent Exposure & Limit the Transmission of the Virus

- No handshaking, fist bumping or hugging.
- Wash hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with at least 60% Ethanol or 70% Isopropanol.
- Each job site should develop cleaning and decontamination procedures that are posted and shared. These procedures must cover all areas including trailers, gates, equipment, vehicles, etc. and shall be posted at all entry points to the sites, and throughout the project site.
- A "No Congregation" policy is in effect; individuals must implement social distancing by maintaining a minimum distance of 6-feet from other individuals.
- Avoid face to face meetings – critical situations requiring in-person discussion must follow social distancing.
- Conduct all meetings via conference calls, if possible. Do not convene meetings of more than 10 people. Recommend use of cell phones, texting, web meeting sites and conference calls for project discussion.
- All individual work crew meetings/tailgate talks should be held outside and follow social distancing protocols. No huddling of employees should be permitted.
- Please keep all crews a minimum of 6 feet apart at all times to eliminate the potential of cross contamination.

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- At each job briefing/tool box talk, employees should be asked if they are experiencing any symptoms, and sent home if they are.
- Each job site should have laminated COVID-19 safety guidelines and handwashing instructions.
- All restroom facilities/porta-potties should be cleaned at least 2 times per day and hand washing stations must be provided with soap, hand sanitiser and paper towels.
- All surfaces should be regularly cleaned, including surfaces, door handles, laptops, etc.
- All common areas and meeting areas are to be regularly cleaned and disinfected at least once a day but preferably twice a day.
- Be sure to use your own water bottle, and do not share. Use of igloos and water fountains is discouraged.
- To avoid external contamination, we recommend everyone bringing food from home.
- Please maintain social distancing separation during breaks and lunch.
- Cover coughing or sneezing with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands. If no tissue is available then cough into your elbow.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.
- To avoid sharing germs, please clean up after yourself. DO NOT make others responsible for moving, unpacking and packing up your personal belongings.
- If you or a family member is feeling ill, stay home!

Work Site Risk Prevention Practices

- At the start of each shift, confirm with all employees that they are healthy.
- We will have a 100% glove policy from today going forward. All construction workers will be required to wear cut-resistant gloves or the equivalent.
- Use of eye protection (safety goggles/face shields) is recommended.

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- In work conditions where required social distancing is impossible to achieve, employees shall be supplied Personal Protective Equipment including as appropriate a standard face mask, gloves, and eye protection.
- All employees shall drive to work site/parking area in a single occupant vehicle. Contractors shall not ride together inside the cab of the same vehicle.
- When entering a machine or vehicle which you are not sure you were the last person to leave, make sure that you wipe down the interior and door handles with disinfectant prior to entry.
- In instances where it is possible, workers should maintain separation of 6 feet from each other per Ministry of Health guidelines.
- Multi-person activities will be limited where feasible (two person lifting activities). If multi-person activities are necessary, each person must wear a mask covering mouth and nose at all times.
- Large gathering places on the site such as shacks and break areas will be eliminated and instead small break areas will be used with seating limited to ensure social distancing. There must be no face to face seating at any time.
- Contact the cleaning person for your office trailer or office space and ensure they have proper COVID- 19 sanitisation processes. Increase their cleaning visits to daily. Information and training of such staff can be arranged with the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health. (468-5110)
- Clean all high contact surfaces a minimum of twice a day in order to minimise the spread of germs in areas that people touch frequently. This includes but is not limited to desks, laptops and vehicles.

Wash Stations

- All site-specific projects with outside construction sites without ready access to an indoor bathroom MUST install wash stations.
- Install hand washing stations with hot water, if possible, and soap at fire hydrants or other water sources to be used for frequent hand washing for all onsite employees. Buckets may be retrofitted to allow for washing of hands without frequent touching of surfaces such as garden hoses.
- All onsite workers must help to maintain and keep stations clean.
- If a worker notices soap or towels are running low or out, immediately notify supervisors. Garbage barrels will be placed next to the hand washing station for disposal of tissues/towels.

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- Do all you can to maintain your good health by: getting adequate sleep; eating a balanced, healthy diet, avoid alcohol; and consume plenty of fluids.
- A site-specific COVID-19 Officer (who may also be the Health and Safety Officer) shall be designated for every site. This safety officer must work closely with the Health and Safety Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands to ensure that safety at all sites is maintained.
- The COVID-19 Officer shall certify that the contractor and all sub-contractors are in full compliance with these guidelines.
- Any issue of non-compliance with these guidelines shall be a basis for the suspension of work. The contractor will be required to submit a corrective action plan detailing each issue of non-conformance and a plan to rectify the issue(s). The contractor will not be allowed to resume work until the plan is approved by the owner. Any additional issues of non-conformance may be subject to action against the contractor's prequalification and certification status.



Source: www.CDC.org