

COVID-19 Recommended Best Practices for Construction Jobsites

► 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.
- Create a habit to not touch one's face and cover when coughing/sneezing
- Disinfect common surfaces regularly such as: tables, door handles, handrails, desk, etc.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning.

► General Jobsite/Office Practices:

- Stop Handshaking, use other methods of greetings
- Increase cleaning of office spaces
- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- Use other means of meetings when possible (examples: Skype, Facetime, Zoom, etc.)
- Limit the amount of travel for employees during this time
- Encourage frequent hand washing and disinfectant of workspaces.
- Limit food sharing
- If employees are feeling sick or have a sick family member at home; ask them to work from home
- 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. [CDC Fact Sheets](#)
- 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?
 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?
- Instruct employees 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.

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- Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs 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 or any multi-user devices and accessories such as iPads, laptops, hand-held radios, computer stations, etc.
- Limit the exchange/sharing of paper documents by encouraging use of electronic communication whenever possible.
- Attendance at safety meetings should be communicated verbally and the foreman/superintendent will sign in each attendee. Contractors should not pass around a sign-in sheet or mobile device to confirm attendance.

► Social Distancing:

- Do not host large group meetings. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends avoiding 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.
- Stop handshaking. Use other methods of greetings.

► 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.
- Request additional/increased sanitation (disinfecting) of portable toilets.
 1. Hand sanitizer shall be provided in/or around all portable bathrooms.
 2. Double check that hand sanitizer dispensers are filled-if not, fill them. Frequently touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected frequently, ideally after each use.
- Project trailers/offices need to be cleaned daily.
- Do not use a common water cooler. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
- All common break areas, lunch and break rooms should be cleaned multiple times throughout the workday.
- Do not congregate in break or lunch areas.
- No communal food should be permitted on the jobsite until further notice, i.e.: donuts, pizza, etc.
- Promote frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. Employers should also provide hand sanitizer (must contain at least 60-95% alcohol) when hand washing facilities are not available. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
 1. All workers should wash hands often, especially before eating, smoking, or drinking, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Workers should refrain from touching their face.
 2. All sites should have hand washing stations readily available to all workers on site. If you have a large site, get a hand washing station from your portable job site toilet provider.
 3. Providing hand sanitizer (must contain at least 60-95% alcohol) is acceptable in the interim between availability of hand washing facilities.
 4. All workers should wash hands before and after entering any unit, as well as regularly and

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periodically throughout the day.

5. Some job sites may have access to hot water for hand washing. If this is an option, please get permission from the facility owner to use their sink and disinfect frequently.
6. If on a remote project, fill an Igloo-type water cooler with water (hot water, if available) and label "hand washing only." This is a good option for vehicles as well. The CDC has [posters](#) and [fact sheets](#) available for posting.

- Do not allow the sharing of tools.
- 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.
- 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 regard to shuttling employees, ensure distancing and encourage workers to provide their own transportation where possible.

► Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

- Do not allow any sharing of personal protection equipment (PPE).
- Gloves should be worn at all times while on site. The type of glove worn should be appropriate to the task. If gloves are not typically required for the task, then any type of glove is acceptable.
- Eye protection should be worn all times while on site.
- Sanitize reusable PPE per manufacturer's recommendation prior to each use.
- Ensure used PPE is disposed of properly.
- Contractors should continue to provide and direct employees to wear face masks if required by the work. (The CDC is currently not recommending that healthy people wear face masks.)

► Additional Resources:

- [OSHA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- [DOL COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- [CDC Website](#)
- [NYS COVID-19 Information](#)
- NYS COVID-19 Hotline: **1-888-364-3065**