

COVID-19 Guidelines for Construction Sites within the District of Columbia

Ongoing Monitoring and Communications

The Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) within the Department of Employment Services and the DC Department of Health (DC Health) have been monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. The latest information and guidance on the District's COVID-19 response can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov.

Companies need to take proactive measures to ensure their personnel do not report to work sick; examples include screening employees and provision for use of sick leave. Subcontractors should be encouraged to do the same. Field teams should maintain constant communication with their subcontractors and be vigilant for obviously sick persons in the field. Any employees reporting to work sick should be sent home.

Construction industry employers should:

- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- Utilize “social distancing” by maintaining a 6-foot distance from other individuals on the site, especially enclosed spaces. It is advised to have no more than 10 individuals within an enclosed space.
- Stay abreast of the Mayor’s orders on prohibited “mass gatherings.”: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/newsroom>
- Provide soap and running water on all jobsites for frequent handwashing.
- Provide hand sanitizer when soap and running water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect all common spaces and high-touch surfaces on jobsites and in offices including shared tools per CDC guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Social Distancing and Protective Gear

Where work spaces do not allow for the advised 6-foot social distancing, employers should take one or more of the following steps:

- Adjust work sequence
- Adjust crew sizes
- Implement other adjustments that align with health and safety guidelines
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be preserved and used only when necessary

Personnel should wear nitrile gloves when conducting any cleaning work associated with this COVID-19. All common spaces and high-touch surfaces such as hoists, elevators, restrooms, portable toilets, copiers, kitchen areas and door handles should be wiped down several times per day.

Cleaning should be conducted with disposable gloves on and should be done using recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which are available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html

Waste Disposal

Gloves, rags, or wipes used to disinfect during routine cleaning can be disposed in regular trash.

If possible, dedicate a lined trash can for disposal of cleaning supplies used to disinfect an area used by a possible or confirmed case. Use gloves when removing garbage bags, and handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after handling or disposing of trash.

Confirmed Cases at a Work Site

Should a confirmed case of COVID-19 be identified by DC Health (or other public health authority) and linked to a field office or construction site, the company's official in charge of safety should be notified immediately. If the office or site is linked to a District government construction project, the head of the overseeing District agency should also be informed.

Once the potential or confirmed case is reported the following measures should be taken:

- All companies working on the site should be informed of the situation.
- A thorough cleaning of all common and high touch spaces should be completed at the jobsite.
- Any employees working in the immediate area or in contact with the employee, should self-quarantine, in accordance with DC Health guidelines for employers, linked below.

For more detailed resources regarding COVID-19, including for maintaining personal and workplace health, visit: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>.