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BLITZWATER WOOD ALLIANCE

BLUEWATER



WOOD ALLIANCE



BLUWATER WOOD ALLIANCE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)



**INDUSTRIAL
SAFETY
TRAINERS**

What is Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- COVID-19 is the disease caused by the new coronavirus that emerged in China in December 2019.
- COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever and shortness of breath. COVID-19 can be severe, and some cases have caused death.
- The new coronavirus can be spread from person to person. It is diagnosed with a laboratory test.
- There is no coronavirus vaccine yet. Prevention involves frequent hand-washing, coughing into the bend of your elbow and staying home when you are sick.

Protection of workers is critical

Coronaviruses are spread through close contact, including at work. Here are some helpful tips to help prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve.
- If you use a tissue, discard immediately and wash your hands afterward.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

What does the Law Say?

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

List of essential-workplace

Manufacturing
Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers, (e.g. primary metal/ steel, blow molding, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer),

regardless of whether those other manufacturers are inside or outside of Ontario,

together with businesses that support and facilitate the movement of goods within integrated North American and global supply chains.

Duties of employers

Section 25 (2)(c) the measures and procedures prescribed are carried out in the workplace;

(a) provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health or safety of the worker;

(b) in a medical emergency for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment, provide, upon request, information in the possession of the employer, including confidential business information, to a legally qualified medical practitioner and to such other persons as may be prescribed;

(c) when appointing a supervisor, appoint a competent person;

(d) acquaint a worker or a person in authority over a worker with any hazard in the work and in the handling, storage, use, disposal and transport of any article, device, equipment or a biological, chemical or physical agent;

(h) take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker;

What does the Law Say?



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT



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Protection of workers is critical

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid high-touch areas, where possible, or ensure you clean your hands after.
- Where possible, wear gloves when interacting with high-touch areas. Do not touch your face with gloved hands. Take care when removing gloves. Ensure you wash your hands after removing them.
- Wash your clothes as soon as you get home.
- If you are ill: notify your supervisor immediately, complete the self-assessment and follow the instructions you get.

As an employer during COVID 19?

- Be the voice from the floor, be that person that workers can go to with concerns.
- Conduct risk assessments to determine if workers are at risk and if found to be at risk, find a way to protect them
- This is something that most of us in Canada have not experienced before. It is important to keep informed as to how business similar to ours are managing this hazard.

Employers

- Because this is so new, and people and business are innovative, the risk assessment you conducted yesterday may look differently today.
- There may be a better way to protect workers, from what you may have thought of yesterday. Your risk assessments and recommendations should be re-visited as often as necessary to ensure that the control of the virus is the best we can be doing.
- This is one workplace safety hazard that would see a significant psychosocial impact. Be prepared to deal with things like fear, depression, worry etc.

What Can We Do?

Teach workers about COVID 19. If you go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html> you can download and print a useful poster.

- Use this as a safety talk with all workers. This could also be used as a review with all trades coming onto your business.

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

WHAT IT IS

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may be very mild or more serious. They may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus.

FEVER COUGH DIFFICULTY BREATHING

HOW IT IS SPREAD

Coronaviruses are most commonly SPREAD from an infected person through:

- respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 — fever, cough, or difficulty breathing:

- stay home to avoid spreading it to others
 - if you live with others, stay in a separate room or keep a 2-metre distance
- call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority
 - tell them your symptoms and follow their instructions
- if you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and tell them your symptoms.

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent the spread of infections is to:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are sick
- when coughing or sneezing:
 - cover your mouth and nose with your arm or tissues to reduce the spread of germs
 - immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as toys, electronic devices and door knobs.
- stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS:
1-833-784-4397 canada.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Agency of Canada / Santé publique Canada

Canada

What can we do?

Employers must report all known positive test results for COVID-19, to:

- the ministry (in writing) within four days
- the joint health and safety representative
- a trade union (if applicable)
- Employers will need to update their policies and procedures as it would apply to these kinds of events. They will need assistance from the JHSC to ensure these hazards are controlled.
- Workers and others who may be on your site will need to fully understand these policies and procedures.

Policies & Procedures

The following should be considered when developing a policy and procedure to address COVID 19:

- how employees and contractors report illnesses
- how to ensure physical distancing
- how work will be scheduled
- Will you have people check in when arriving at work?
- You should know exactly who has been at your workplace in the event that someone has been infected, you will want to reach out to all those that were on site and advise them of your findings. You will need their phone or emails as part of signing in.

Physical Distancing

In order to ensure physical distancing on site, employers should consider:

- staggering start times
- staggering breaks
- staggering lunches
- restricting the number of people at work and where they are assigned to work
- controlling worker movement
- Control how many people are in a room, no staff meetings...

On-Site Sanitation

Employers should focus on:

- access to soap and water (ways to properly clean hands) or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- washroom facilities
- sanitizing commonly touched surfaces or areas - see risk assessment
- avoiding the sharing of hand tools and power tools. If sharing is necessary, enable sanitization of shared equipment.
- posting signage on hygiene in English and the majority workplace language so everyone can understand how to do their part

Adjust on-site and production schedules

Schedules should consider:

- limiting number of workers to critical number by staggering work schedules
- sanitation of workspaces
- Planning to facilitate appropriate physical distancing (two metres) between workers during any particular shift

Keeping up to date

The [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) is providing consistent updates on the provincial government's response to the outbreak, including:

- status of cases in Ontario
- current affected areas
- symptoms and treatments
- how to protect yourself and self-isolate
- updated Ontario news on the virus

For More Info....

- [Health Canada](#)
- Public Health Ontario
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>
- World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



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