



## COVID-19 Information

### INTRODUCTION

1. Review any accidents or “near accidents” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK.

### COVID-19 INFORMATION

Businesses and employers can prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), most American workers will likely experience low (caution) or medium exposure risk levels at their job or place of employment.

All employers need to consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact in their workplace. This may include activities in one or more of the following areas:

- reduce transmission among employees,
- maintain healthy business operations, and
- maintain a healthy work environment.

### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses).

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### How To Reduce Transmission Among Employees

1. Actively encourage sick employees to stay home:
  - Employees who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their supervisor and stay home.
  - Sick employees should follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.



## ***TOOLBOX TALK***

- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.
2. Identify where and how workers might be exposed to COVID-19 at work:
- Be aware that some employees may be at higher risk for serious illness, such as older adults and those with chronic medical conditions. Consider minimizing face-to-face contact between these employees or assign work tasks that allow them to maintain a distance of six feet from other workers, customers and visitors, or to telework if possible.
3. Separate sick employees:
- Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.
  - If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
4. Educate employees about how they can reduce the spread of COVID-19:
- Older people and people with serious chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for complications.
  - Follow the policies and procedures of your employer related to illness, cleaning and disinfecting, and work meetings and travel.
  - Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
  - Inform your supervisor if you have a sick family member at home with COVID-19.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

## **TOOLBOX TALK**

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, and are appropriate for the surface.
- Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.