



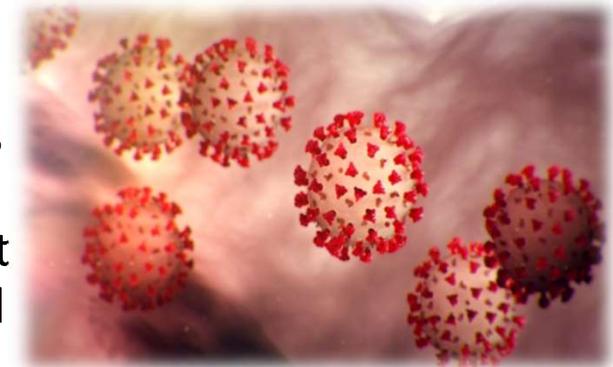
# COVID-19 Preparedness Plans – Construction

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

# Slowing the spread of COVID-19

- COVID-19 is highly contagious.
- Persons with the virus may exhibit little or no symptoms and may be infecting others with little indication.
- Persons contracting the virus have little way of knowing whether they are infected.
- COVID-19 can result in severe symptoms – and even be fatal – to a significant portion of the population.
- Without protective strategies, a mass exposure to the virus can overwhelm the health care system, resulting in the capacity of health care facilities not being sufficient to treat an influx of persons exhibiting severe symptoms associated with COVID-19.



# Executive Order 20-74 – June 5, 2020

- **Section 7.d.i.** *Beginning on June 29, 2020, all Critical Businesses must have **developed and implemented a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan** as set forth in paragraph 7.e of this Executive Order and in accordance with the industry guidance currently posted to the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>) and **any additional applicable industry guidance** that will be posted to the Stay Safe Minnesota website on or before June 15, 2020, as provided in paragraph 7.d.ii of this Executive Order.*

***(Minnesota OSHA will not issue related citations through July 10, 2020.)***

See [mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-74%20Final\\_tcm1055-437539.pdf](https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-74%20Final_tcm1055-437539.pdf).

# Executive Order 20-74 – June 5, 2020

- **Section 7.b. Safe work.** *The protections noted in Executive Order 20-54 (Protecting Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions and Retaliation) remain in full force and effect. **All work must be conducted in a manner that adheres to Minnesota OSHA standards and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines**, including social distancing and hygiene practices. Under existing law and authority, DLI may issue citations, civil penalties or closure orders to places of employment with unsafe or unhealthy conditions, and DLI may penalize businesses that retaliate against employees who raise safety and health concerns.*

See [mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-74%20Final\\_tcm1055-437539.pdf](https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-74%20Final_tcm1055-437539.pdf).

See also Sec. 7.b of Minn. E/O 20-63 (dated May 27, 2020), Sec. 7 of Minn. E/O 20-48 (dated April 30, 2020), Sec. 7 of Minn. E/O 20-33 (dated April 8, 2020), Sec. 7 of Minn. E/O 20-20 (dated March 25, 2020).

**Section 11. Enforcement.** “ ... individual who willfully violates an executive order is guilty of a misdemeanor ...”;

- “ ... business owner, manager, or supervisor who requires or encourages any of their [workers] to violate this Executive Order is guilty of a gross misdemeanor ...”;
- “ ... Attorney General, as well as city and county attorneys, may seek civil relief ... up to \$25,000 per occurrence ... and injunctive relief ...”;
- State and local licensing and regulatory entities that inspect businesses for compliance with rules and codes to protect the public are encouraged to assess regulated businesses’ compliance with this Executive Order and use existing enforcement tools to bring businesses into compliance ...”;
- MN OSHA Compliance has the authority to enforce MN OSHA Standards (e.g. “General Duty Clause”) and MDH Guidelines and CDC Guidelines as applied to workers ...”

***Primary strategy is voluntary compliance.***

See <http://www.dli.mn.gov/updates> (COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and industry guidance FAQs”)

## Challenges with construction work

- Construction sites maintain several work crews comprising a variety of trades from multiple employers and subcontractors.
- Many construction workers are independent contractors, work on a part-time basis and travel long distances between worksites.
- Many construction workers travel between multiple construction sites within a month, a week or even daily.
- Layouts of many construction sites are dynamic and ever-changing, resulting in informal access points, pathways and work areas.
- Employees of various subcontractors often work in close proximity to – and sometimes in tandem with – one another.
- Facilities, equipment, tools and materials are often shared, handled or used in common among construction workers at each worksite.

# Slowing the spread in construction

- Workers assigned to report to worksites must be at the worksite only because it is essential for them to perform their work function.
- Construction employers and contractors must lead efforts toward protecting all workers from COVID-19, as well as helping slow its spread.
  - Reduce the overall number of workers becoming infected.
  - Reduce the potential of exposure within and throughout worksites.
  - Reduce the potential of exposure in between worksites.
  - Reduce the potential of exposure to the public, including workers' families and friends.
  - Reduce the potential of exposure to persons of high-risk.

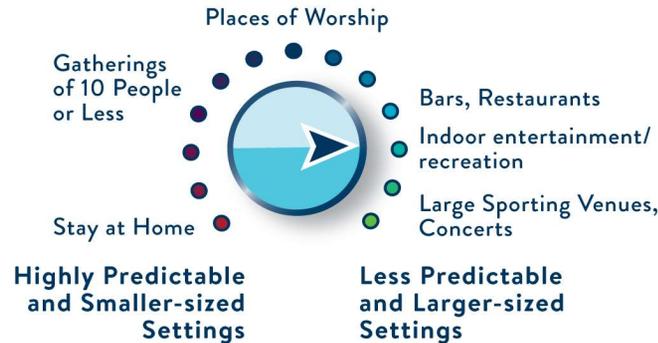
# Slowing the spread in construction

## **m** Safely adjusting the dials - June 10

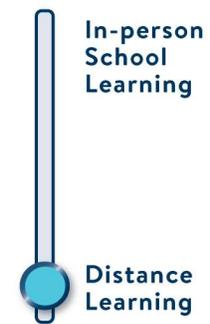
### WORKPLACE SETTINGS



### SOCIAL SETTINGS



### SCHOOL SETTINGS



#### SAFE PRACTICES



- Wash your hands often
- Get tested when sick
- Maintain social distance
- Wear a mask
- Stay home when able
- You must work from home when able

#### COVID-19 RESPONSE



- Test symptomatic individuals
- Isolate positive cases and contact trace
- Protect those at heightened risk
- Build needed hospital capacity
- Procure critical care supplies



## **COVID-19 in Construction – COVID-19 Preparedness Plans**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

# Stay Safe MN – Plan templates, guidance



All Minnesota businesses must establish and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan per [Emergency Executive Order 20-24](#). Each plan must provide for the business' implementation of guidance for their specific industry as well as Minnesota OSHA Standards and Minnesota Department of Health and Center for Disease Control guidelines in their workplaces. Preparedness Plan guidance and templates can be found in the following link. If no specific guidance is provided, the general guidance can be used for all businesses. Read the [Preparedness Plan FAQs](#) for more information.



### All Businesses

Stay safe guidance for industries and business entities that do not have specific guidance.



### Restaurant and Bar Businesses

Stay safe operating guidance that applies to restaurant and bar entities.



### Personal Care and Salon Businesses

Stay safe operating guidance that applies to salon, nail, spa, and personal care entities.



### Entertainment

Stay safe operating guidance for entertainment events.



### Schools and Child Care

Stay safe operating guidance for schools covering summer programming, distance learning, guidance for districts and schools, etc.



### Health Care Facilities

Stay safe operating guidance for human and animal care entities.



### Places of Worship Entities

Stay safe operating guidance that applies to places of worship entities.



### Retail Businesses

Stay safe operating guidance that applies to retail businesses.



### Outdoor Recreation Entities

Stay safe operating guidance that applies to outdoor recreation including boat launches, campgrounds, etc.



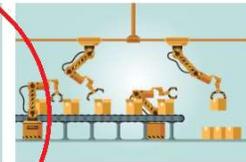
### Food and Agriculture Businesses

Stay safe guidance for businesses related to food production, handling, and other related entities.



### Construction

Stay safe operating guidance for businesses and workers in the construction industry.



### Manufacturing

Stay safe operating guidance for entities in the manufacturing sector.

# Stay Safe MN – Plan templates, guidance



Wash Hands  
Often



Stay home  
when sick



Stay 6 feet  
apart

Operational Guidance for Construction Businesses

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Template and Instructions

PDF - [English](#)

MS Word - [English](#)

Official Guidance: Construction Businesses

[Preparedness Plan Requirements Guidance - Construction \(PDF version\)](#) - REVISED 6/25/2020



# COVID-19 Preparedness Plans

- **Written plans:** *“... must develop and implement COVID-19 Preparedness Plans that address the hazards of COVID-19 transmission at their worksites ...”*
- **Plan administrator:** *“Businesses must ensure the plan is evaluated, monitored, executed and updated under the supervision of a designated plan administrator.”*
- **Training:** *“All workers must be properly trained on and adhere to the worksite’s policies, protocols and practices as outlined within this guidance.”*
- **Readily accessible:** *“Businesses must ensure the plan is posted at all the business’s worksites in readily accessible locations (or is distributed to workers electronically) to allow for the plan to be readily reviewed by all workers, as required.”*

# COVID-19 Preparedness Plans

## **Basic elements of the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan**

1. Identification of sick workers and ensuring sick workers stay home
2. Social distancing (engineering and administrative)
3. Worker hygiene and source controls
4. Workplace building and ventilation
5. Workplace cleaning and disinfection
6. Drop off, pick up and delivery
7. Communication and training

## **Additional elements of the construction COVID-19 Preparedness Plan**

1. Managing access and occupancy
2. Social distancing
3. Protocols where social distancing cannot be maintained
4. In-home construction services

## Terminology

- **Worker:** *“... includes all workers engaged in work at a worksite. All workers, including subcontractors, independent contractors, vendors, delivery personnel, contract, seasonal, part-time or temporary workers, however categorized, who are present at the worksite to perform work ...”*
- **General contractor:** *“... includes entities that have overall authority, responsibility or control of a worksite, which may include, but is not limited to, general contractors, construction managers, prime contractors, developers, facility owners and/or operators, and public entities.”*

# COVID-19 Preparedness Plans

## Responsibilities

1. All contractors and employers must have a plan for their workers.
2. General contractors must ensure all businesses that have workers at the worksite have written COVID-19 Preparedness Plans applicable to the worksite.
3. General contractors must ensure the Preparedness Plans for each business can be effectively implemented, address specific hazards to the worksite and are in alignment with other Preparedness Plans.
4. General contractors must ensure instances of actual or potential COVID-19 are addressed and communicated for the worksite.
5. General contractors must ensure diligent investigations are conducted at the worksite to evaluate exposure.
6. All businesses still must establish and implement their own plans for their workers.

# Moving forward

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LABOR AND INDUSTRY





## **COVID-19 in Construction – Communication and training**

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# Communication and training

1. All workers and members of management must be trained.
  - Includes temporary, part-time, seasonal and contract workers.
  - Must be provided prior to assignment.
  - Must be provided by the business.
  - Must be provided on work time.
  - Must be provided in a manner and language they can understand.
  - Reasonable accommodations and adjustments must be made.
2. Communicate required rules, protocols and practices.
3. Workers must comply with required provisions.
4. Businesses must enforce required provisions.



## **COVID-19 in Construction – Ensure sick workers stay home**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

# Stay home when sick

Evaluate and adjust sick leave policies to reflect the need for workers to be isolated or quarantined and to create incentives for workers who are sick to stay home. Sick leave policies must be clearly communicated to the business's workers.

- Emphasize the importance to employees of staying home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, are tested/diagnosed with COVID-19, or a family member is positive or symptomatic.
- Establish a reporting procedure for employees to report illnesses from home.
- Designate specific persons for reporting. Consider employee privacy and confidentiality.
- Provide for accommodations for “high risk” workers.
- Provide employees with printed resources for sick leave, FMLA and other rights, policies and accommodations related to COVID-19.
- Confer with human resources for special concerns involving employee rights.

# On-site health screening

- Establish screening procedures for all workers entering the worksite.
  - Are you experiencing symptoms?
  - Have you tested positive for COVID-19?
  - Have you had close contact with another person with COVID-19?
- Must be conducted daily upon arrival and check in.
- Workers responding “Yes” must:
  1. be sent home immediately (not to another worksite);
  2. self-isolate or quarantine;
  3. not return until self-isolation or quarantine is completed; and
  4. consult with a medical professional.

**VISITOR AND EMPLOYEE  
HEALTH SCREENING CHECKLIST**



CONDUCT HEALTH SCREENING EACH TIME EMPLOYEES OR VISITORS ENTER THE FACILITY.

You may also opt to conduct temperature screening if it can be done with proper social distancing, protection, and hygiene protocols. However, temperature screening is not required.

If a worker or visitor answers “Yes” to any of the screening questions, they should be advised to go home, stay away from other people, and contact their health care provider.

Have you had any of the following symptoms since your last day at work or the last time you were here that you cannot attribute to another health condition?

Please answer “Yes” or “No” to each question. Do you have:

- Fever or feeling feverish?
- Chills?
- A new cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- A new sore throat?
- New muscle aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?

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05/20/2020

# On-site reporting of symptoms

- Establish reporting procedures for workers experiencing symptoms at the worksite.
  - Require workers to report symptoms immediately.
  - Designate a person to whom the workers report.
- Workers who are symptomatic must:
  1. immediately remove themselves and isolate;
  2. be sent home (not to another worksite);
  3. self-isolate or quarantine;
  4. not return until the self-isolation or quarantine is complete; and
  5. consult with a medical professional.

## SYMPTOM CHECKER

How COVID-19 Compares With Other Illnesses

What does being sick with COVID-19 look like compared with a cold or the flu? Check what types of symptoms show up for each illness and how often in the chart below.

**NOTE:** If you have not been to a country or area with an outbreak of COVID-19 or have not had contact with someone who has, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk of getting the disease is low.

	COVID-19		COLD/UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION		ALLERGIES/HAY FEVER		INFLUENZA	
	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?
Fever	✓	Common	✓	Rare			✓	Common
Fatigue (Tiredness)	✓	Common	✓	Sometimes	✓	Sometimes	✓	Common
Dry Cough	✓	Common			✓	Sometimes	✓	Common
Difficulty Breathing	✓	Severe			✓	Sometimes		
Aches and Pains	✓	Sometimes	✓	Rare			✓	Common
Sneezing			✓	Common	✓	Common	✓	Sometimes
Runny Nose	✓	Sometimes			✓	Common	✓	Sometimes
Stuffy Nose			✓	Common	✓	Common		Sometimes
Watery Eyes					✓	Common		
Sore Throat	✓	Sometimes	✓	Common			✓	Sometimes
Diarrhea	✓	Sometimes					✓	Rare

Information compiled from Florida Department of Health, CDC, World Health Organization  
Infographic by Christie Zizo/Spectrum News

# COVID-19 and when to return to work

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFEMN



## COVID-19 and When to Return to Work

Follow these guidelines when staying home and returning to the workplace. These guidelines are for all workers except people who work in health care. Information for health care workers is available on [Health Care: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/> and from your employer. To use this document, look for the best description (sections 1 – 5) of your current situation, then follow the guidelines for that section.

### **1** You are NOT sick and have NOT been in contact with someone with COVID-19.

#### GUIDELINES FOR STAYING HOME

- Stay 6 feet away from others if you need to leave your home.
- Work from home if you can.

#### GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE

- Stay 6 feet away from co-workers and visitors if possible.
- If it is difficult to stay 6 feet away, wear a mask.

### **2** You are NOT sick, but someone in your household does not feel well.

#### GUIDELINES FOR STAYING HOME OR RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE

- If household member does NOT have COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, follow section 1.
- If household member HAS symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, follow section 3.

### **3** You were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 (like a person in your household), but you are NOT sick.

#### GUIDELINES FOR STAYING HOME

- Stay home, separate yourself from others in your household, and do not share anything (e.g., utensils, phone) for 14 days.
- Work from home if you can.

1 of 2

COVID-19 AND WHEN TO RETURN TO WORK

#### GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE

- Notify your supervisor.
- Stay home for 14 days.
- If you become sick (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell), continue to stay home and follow section 5.
- Return to work after 14 days if you do not develop symptoms.

### **4** You are sick with COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, but have NOT been tested for COVID-19. OR

### **5** You are sick and your health care provider told you that you have COVID-19 (based on a lab test or symptoms).

#### GUIDELINES FOR STAYING HOME

- Separate yourself from others in your household, do not share anything (e.g. utensils, phone) and stay at home for at least:
  - 10 days, and for 3 days with no fever (without fever reducing medicine) and improvement of respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) whichever is longer.
- Work from home if you can.

#### GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE

- Notify your supervisor.
- Return to work after 10 days, and for 3 days with no fever (without fever reducing medicine) and improvement of respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) whichever is longer.
- Stay 6 feet away from co-workers and visitors, if possible.
- If it is difficult to stay 6 feet away, wear a mask.



Minnesota Department of Health | [health.mn.gov](https://health.mn.gov) | 651-201-3920  
625 Robert Street North, PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Contact [health.communications@state.mn.us](mailto:health.communications@state.mn.us) to request an alternate format.

06/02/2020

2 of 2

# Establish a post-reporting process

- Establish protocol to identify and communicate with workers who may have been exposed to a person with symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 while at the worksite.
- Make inquiries to determine the:
  - worksites and locations where the infected worker was present;
  - persons with whom the infected worker was in contact;
  - time-lines for when the infected worker was at the worksite; and
  - specific areas within the worksite where the infected worker was working.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFE MN

## What to do if an employee has COVID-19

If an employee has tested positive for COVID-19, you must take steps to protect others in the workplace. Promptly separate any sick employees from others and send them home, determine who may have been exposed to the person who tested positive for COVID-19, and educate employees about workplace health and safety guidelines.

### Determine which other employees have been exposed

-  Identify close work contacts of the person who tests positive for COVID-19. This includes people who have had at least 15 minutes of contact within 6 feet of the person who is positive, beginning two days before the person who tests positive developed symptoms. You do not need to give these names to local or state public health agencies.
-  Tell exposed employees how to keep from spreading COVID-19 to others, including staying home for 14 days from the last day they were exposed to the person with COVID-19 if they work at noncritical businesses, or 10 days from the last day they were exposed to the person with COVID-19 if they work at a critical business.
-  Track the number of days that exposed employees stay home to make sure they do not come back to work too soon. Employees who are sent home who develop symptoms should stay home until all three of these things are true: They feel better; and it has been 10 days since they first felt sick; and they have had no fever for the last three days, without using medicine that lowers fevers. That means they might be out of work for more than 10 days.
-  Screen returning employees to make sure they do not have symptoms and are OK to come back to work. No medical examination, testing, or official letter is needed to return to work.

# Establish a post-reporting process

## What should I do if an employee is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19?

- If a worker is confirmed to have COVID-19, the protocol **must include informing the business's other workers** who have been in close contact with the infected worker, as well as the general contractor(s) at the worksite, of the possible exposure to COVID-19 at the worksite.
- An individual must be designated to gather information from workers who may be sick with COVID-19 and to engage in needed communication, while ensuring the privacy of infected workers is maintained in accordance with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance.
- Implement immediate cleaning and disinfecting of areas at the worksite where a worker, official or visitor was present and who has become ill with COVID-19.”



## **COVID-19 in Construction – Managing access and occupancy**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

## Minnesota Executive Order 20-74 – “Stay Safe MN”

- Employees of all industries must continue to work from home whenever possible, work remotely whenever possible and may report to work only when necessary to perform job functions.
- Still promote remote working and teleworking.
- Have virtual or online meetings whenever possible.
- Unnecessary travel is strongly discouraged.



# Access restriction and control

- Access into worksite is limited to required personnel only.
  - Perimeters of worksites must be established to allow for ingress to be monitored and controlled.
  - Maintain established and well-defined boundaries.
  - Control access to prevent unauthorized persons.
  - Control within existing occupancies.
- Require appointments for visitors (self-check, face-coverings).
- Maintain attendance log for all persons, including workers, delivery drivers, officials, visitors and other personnel.



# Drop off, pick up and delivery

- Ensure delivery personnel are informed of protocols and protections.
  - Communicate applicable required practices and protocols.
  - Use signage for reminders of requirements (such as not to enter if experiencing symptoms, social distancing, handwashing, face-coverings).
- Deliveries should be scheduled and coordinated with other deliveries.
  - Avoid multiple drop-offs or deliveries at the same time.
  - Permit only one delivery at a time; other delivery personnel must wait in their vehicles.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times.
  - Conduct communications and transactions electronically.
  - Establish “contactless delivery” methods when receiving deliveries.
  - Use partitions or windows between workers and delivery personnel.
  - Minimize unnecessary exchanging of scanners, pens or other tools.



# Job offices and job trailers

- Access into job office or job trailers is restricted to a limited number of persons.
  - Do not allow unannounced entry.
  - Establish a walk-up protocol handled through windows.
  - Use phones, intercoms or other technology to communicate.
  - Meet outside the office or trailer.
  - Cordon off a zone at the doorway to minimize intrusion.
  - Social distancing needs to be maintained.
- Conduct meetings or conversations outside or in large areas or spaces, as opposed to in job offices or job trailers.





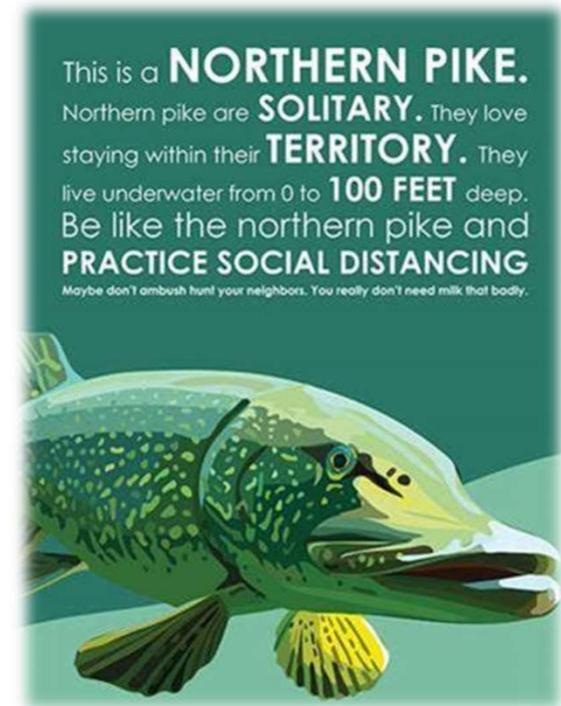
## **COVID-19 in Construction – Social distancing**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

# Social distancing – Separation

- **Worksites must be supervised to oversee social distancing and assignment of work crews.**
- Limit worker and work crew interaction across floors, zones, buildings and worksites to the extent possible.
  - Strategy: Separate or designate work and staging areas for each work crew.
  - Strategy: Stagger schedules, shifts and timing to minimize the number of workers on site at any time.
  - Strategy: Stagger arrival times, break times, delivery times and meetings.
  - Strategy: Identify and delineate boundaries for work areas, meeting areas and break areas to promote social distancing.
- Implement static assignment of work crews for each worksite or work area to the extent possible.



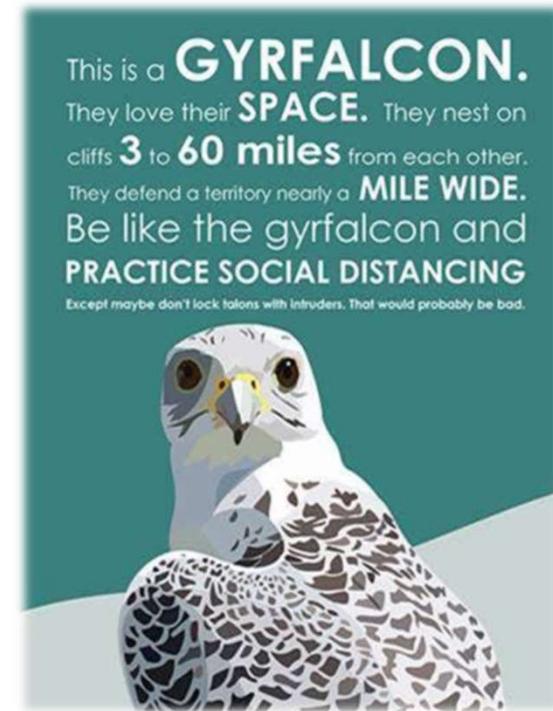
# Social distancing – Choke points

- **Worksites must be supervised to oversee social distancing and assignment of work crews.**
- Minimize choke points: Evaluate and manage the traffic flows, patterns and bottlenecks for workers at the worksite to provide for one-way movement, reduce crowding and allow for social distancing.
  - Strategy: Increase the number of access points (such as doorways, stairways, ladders, corridors).
  - Strategy: Designate access points, stairways, ladder ways and work areas for each work crew.
  - Strategy: Restrict the shared use of common facilities (such as “skips,” loading bays, elevators).
- Minimize the use of shared spaces and common areas.



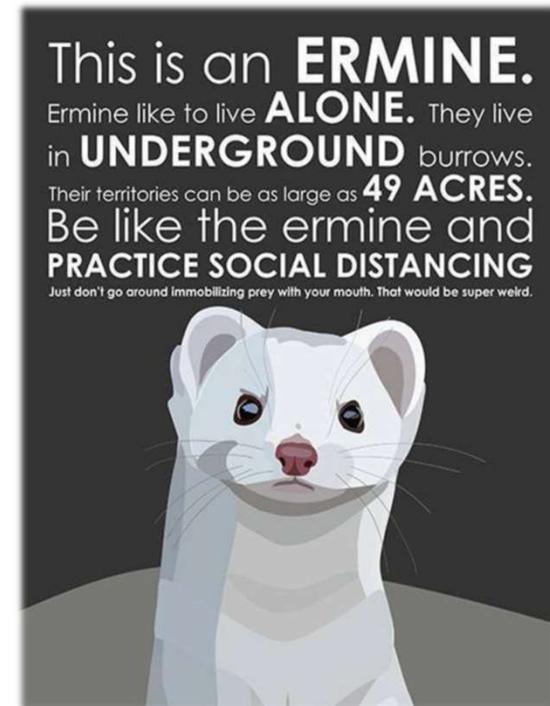
# Social distancing – Work activities

- **Worksites must be supervised to oversee social distancing and assignment of work crews.**
- Ensure social distancing is maintained between workers at the worksite, including entering and exiting the worksite, navigating throughout the worksite and working within their assigned area.
  - Provide for six feet of physical distancing in work areas, staging areas, storage areas, hoist areas, break areas, locker and changing areas, meeting areas, office trailers, parking areas, etc.
  - Provide for separation between individual portable toilets and handwashing and sanitizing stations.



# Social distancing – Barrier protection

- **Worksites must be supervised to oversee social distancing and assignment of work crews.**
- Incorporate barriers, partitions, screens or curtains to maintain barrier protection between workers, to the extent possible, where social distancing cannot be maintained.
  - Drop-down curtains for workers side-by-side at drawing or planning tables.
  - Speaking to delivery personnel behind windows of job trailers.
  - Screens placed between workers in aerial lifts (such as welding, siding).
  - Tarps or curtains over stepladders or floor trusses while installing electrical, mechanical, plumbing or fire-suppression equipment.
- May be used for workers closer than six feet or in addition to social distancing protocols.



# Social distancing – Fewer than six feet

- **Worksites must be supervised to oversee social distancing and assignment of work crews.**
- Evaluate work activities where social distancing is breached to determine if they can be done in an alternative way.
  - Work activities should not be performed if adequate protective measures cannot be implemented.
- Workers must always use a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.
  - If barriers, partitions, screens or curtains are not possible, face coverings must be used where social distancing cannot be maintained.
  - If workers are unable to use a face covering due to health or physical ability reasons, the worker must use a face shield.
  - Multiple face-coverings may be needed daily for each worker.





## **COVID-19 in Construction – Ventilation, sanitation, cleaning and disinfection**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

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# Viability of COVID-19

- Studies have indicated SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be infectious while outside the body.
  - Copper surfaces – up to four hours.
  - Cardboard – up to 24 hours.
  - Plastic – two to three days.
  - Stainless steel – two to three days.
- It can remain infectious in the air up to three hours.

## How long does the virus last?

SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, needs a living host to reproduce in. A new study looks at how long it can last outside the body

As aerosol in the air\* Up to 3 hrs



On copper Up to 4 hrs



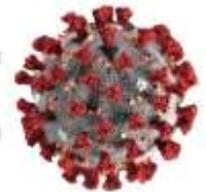
On cardboard Up to 24 hrs



On plastic 2 - 3 days



On stainless steel 2 - 3 days



Study and paper by :  
New England Journal of Medicine  
CDC  
Universitis of California, LA, Princeton

\*Researchers used a nebulizer to simulate coughing or sneezing, and found that the virus became an aerosol

# Worksite ventilation within structures

- **Generally:** Evaluate the operational capacity and increase, improve and maintain the ventilation provided.
  - Increase the outdoor air-percentage to increase dilution of contaminants and eliminate recirculating, whenever possible, while maintaining indoor-air conditions.
- **Day-to-day operations:** For work activities not occurring outdoors, ensure the following practices and protocols are maintained.
  1. Continuously maximize fresh air into work areas and eliminate air recirculation.
  2. Supplement the ventilation system with the use of portable HEPA-filter units whenever possible.
  3. Keep systems running longer hours (24/7 if possible) to enhance the ability to filter contaminants out of the air.
  4. Minimize air-flow blowing across people.



# Sharing and common-use equipment

- When possible, assign a designated operator for each piece of equipment (such as a forklift operator, skid-steer operator), as opposed to allowing several operators to access a single piece of equipment. If equipment is shared, disinfect between users.
- Sharing and common-use of tools and equipment should be highly discouraged and prohibited. This may include:
  - power or hand tools (such as trowels, saws, pneumatic tools, carts, dollies);
  - powered industrial trucks (such as forklifts, buggies);
  - aerial lifts (or mobile elevated work platforms);
  - mobile earthmoving equipment (such as front-end loaders, excavators, skid-steers); and
  - personal protective equipment (such as face shields, hard hats, eye protection).

# Sharing and common-use equipment

- Workers, including those in the field, should avoid sharing phones, devices, materials, tools and equipment, and, if shared, they should be disinfected between users.
- Food must not be provided or shared communally.
- Community drinking stations and water fountains must not be available or used. Individual water bottles may be provided or distributed instead of potable water-stations. Touchless water-filling stations may still be provided.



# Worksite cleaning and disinfection

- Establish a schedule for sanitizing the worksite.
  - Identify the specific surfaces and equipment to be sanitized.
  - Identify the frequency with which surfaces and equipment are sanitized.
  - Identify recommended cleaning agents to be used for each surface.
- Frequently clean and disinfect all areas (such as offices, trailers, restrooms, portable toilets, locker and changing areas, common areas and break areas).
- Frequently clean and disinfect all high-touch items.



# Worksite cleaning and disinfection

- Sanitation schedules should include the following.
  - Tabletops, countertops and work surfaces
  - MEWPs and lift platforms
  - Doorways and door handles
  - Vehicle cabs and controls
  - Stairways and railings
  - Control panels for equipment
  - Guardrail-systems and gates
  - Toilets and handwashing facilities
  - Ladders
  - Computers, keyboards and printers
  - Scaffolding and stair towers
  - Emergency equipment
  - Elevators and “skips”
  - Tablets and cellular devices
- Note: Not electrical equipment and devices (such as light switches or circuit-breakers).



# Worksite cleaning and disinfection

- Instruct workers to launder their clothing, uniforms, other apparel and personal protective equipment (PPE) daily according to clothing and detergent instructions.
- Clean and disinfect work vehicles between the use of each worker or work crew.
- Encourage workers to sanitize high-touch points within their personal vehicle (such as handles, locks, steering wheels, instrument controls, switches, seatbelt) upon entering.



# Worksite cleaning and disinfection

- Select appropriate disinfectants and ensure the needed supply is available (consider effectiveness, safety and surface material).
- Surfaces should first be “cleaned” with soap and water, then disinfected with a proper agent.
- Identify disinfecting agents to be used.
  - Environmental Protection Agency’s “List N” – Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2.
  - Bleach solution recommended by CDC:
    - 1/3 cup bleach to one gallon of water; or
    - four teaspoons bleach to one quart of water.
  - Alcohol-based agent containing 70% alcohol.





## **COVID-19 in Construction – Worker hygiene and source controls**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

# Sanitation facilities

- Provide for separation between individual portable toilets and handwashing or sanitizing stations.
- Ensure portable toilets are emptied regularly.
- Ensure supplies in restrooms, portable toilets and handwashing or sanitizing stations are regularly monitored and continually stocked.
- Ensure handwashing or sanitizing facilities are readily available at the worksite. Provide portable or plumbed handwashing stations.
- Ensure all trash, refuse and debris is regularly disposed of and not allowed to accumulate, to minimize the number of workers involved in the handling and disposal of materials. Provide covered trash receptacles throughout the worksite.



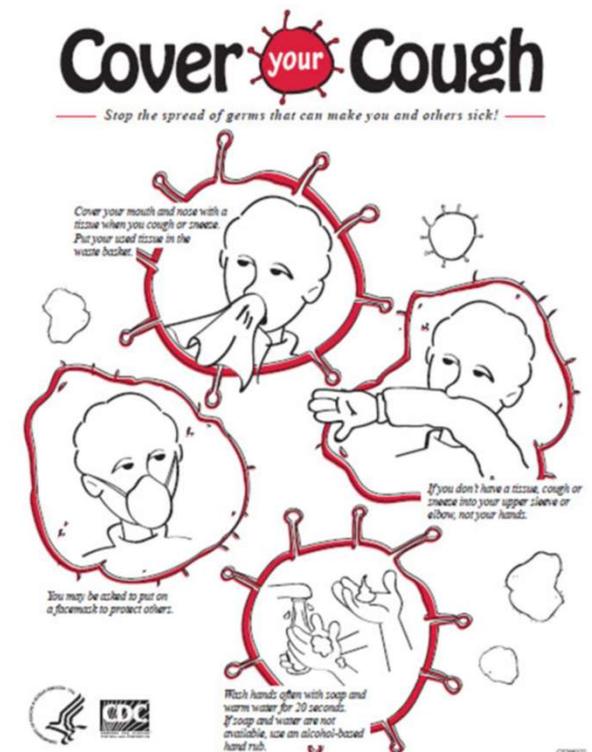
# Worker hygiene and source controls

- Instruct workers to regularly wash or sanitize their hands, such as when entering and exiting the worksite, before and after eating or drinking, and after using restroom facilities, devices, tools and equipment.
- Instruct workers to avoid touching their face with unwashed or unsanitized hands.
- Soap and water works best.
  - Apply water before soap.
  - Wash for at least 20 seconds.
  - Rinse thoroughly and dry.
- Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol.



# Worker hygiene and source controls

- Post handwashing and “cover your cough” signs.
- Provide tissues or towels for proper cough and sneeze etiquette and provide no-touch trash bins.
- Respiratory etiquette should be actively promoted.
  - Avoid sneezing or coughing near other people.
  - Cover your cough and your sneeze.
  - Wear a face covering or mask.
  - Use disposable tissues and napkins.
  - Cough or sneeze into fabric (such as a handkerchief, elbow of sleeve, inside of shirt front).
  - Wash or sanitize your hands immediately afterward.



# Respiratory protection versus face coverings

- **Respiratory protection:** Protects the wearer from hazardous atmospheres, materials and agents within the wearer's breathing zone.
- **Masks and face coverings:** Designed to protect those around the wearer from the wearer, presuming the wearer is or could be infected.



**Cloth or Paper Face  
Mask**



**Surgical Face  
Mask**



**Filtering Facepiece  
Respirator (e.g. N95)**

- Masks and face coverings are **not** regarded as personal protective equipment.
  - Proper respiratory protection is still required and needs to be provided and used for exposures to other hazardous materials (such as respirable silica, lead, asbestos).

# Frequently asked questions

- [www.dli.mn.gov/updates](http://www.dli.mn.gov/updates)
- [mn.gov/deed/newscenter/covid/safework/business/faqs/](http://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/covid/safework/business/faqs/)
- [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html)



# Thank you!

**For further assistance, contact:**

**Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation**

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**651-284-5060 or 800-657-3776**