

COVID-19

In the Construction Workplace

April 2nd Update

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With all the information circulating our workplaces, it is important to know the latest information about the COVID-19 virus and how it could affect workplace safety. It is important to remember that we all play a part in preventing the spread of this disease.

How does COVID-19 Spread?

Infected people can spread COVID-19 through their respiratory secretions via droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. According to the CDC, spread from person-to-person is most likely among close contacts (about 6 feet).

Safe Work Practices to Prevent Transmission

Stopping the spread of Covid-19 will require a change in the way we work

- **Avoid close contact**

- Those around us may unknowingly have the illness and be contagious. This is why you must practice social distancing around everyone even though they may not "look" sick.
- Don't work closer to one another than necessary.
- Turn off equipment if you need to communicate with others. Loud motors of trucks & equipment require us to be closer to hear one another.
- Avoid groups. Perform your safety briefings and toolbox talks from a distance or individually.



- **Hand Hygiene**

- Hand washing combined with avoiding touching your face is recommended. Review your hand washing facilities. If you have no running water on your jobsite, plan to provide soap and water another way. (tote, buckets, etc.)



- **Stay home if you feel sick**

- If you believe you may be coming down with Covid-19, do not come to work until you have been tested and are confirmed to be negative. Early symptoms may include loss of smell or taste, high fever, dry cough, and fatigue.

Common Questions

Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

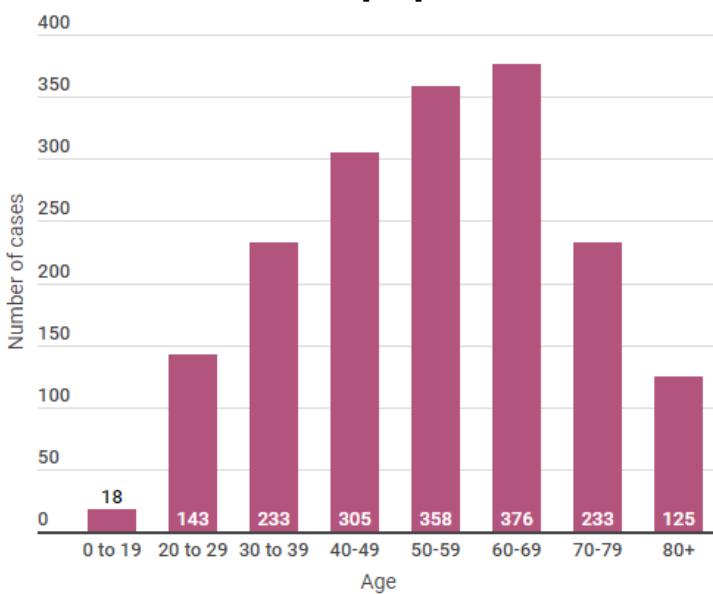
People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms which is why social distancing is so critical – even at work.

COVID-19 is only a serious issue for the older population...

While most deaths have been older individuals, the majority of cases are actually within the working population (ages 18-65). So, while it may not be as fatal for those of us in the workplace, you could put your family at risk by taking the virus home with you. Your failure to follow these simple guidelines may put your family at risk if you expose them by bringing the virus home.

I'm not old, why should I be concerned?

In addition to exposing your family and others to the disease if you become infected, you should know that the majority of our workforce has at least underlying condition that could put you at higher risk. You, your coworker, or family member very likely suffers from one or more of the pre-existing conditions in the chart to the right. This is why we must all treat this as a serious matter and follow the common sense protocols established by medical professionals.



PRE-EXISTING CONDITION	DEATH RATE confirmed cases
Cardiovascular disease	13.2%
Diabetes	9.2%
Chronic respiratory disease	8.0%
Hypertension	8.4%
Cancer	7.6%

- Do not travel or congregate unnecessarily.
- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face (harder than it sounds)
- Use social distancing – stay at least 6 feet from others as much as possible
- Stay home if you feel sick. Stay home until you've been tested.

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COVID-19 Toolbox Safety Talk

Date: _____

Reminder – stay at least 6 ft. apart during the toolbox talk



Trainer: _____

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