
Construction Reopening COVID-19 Safety Review

With

Brian Stevens, Ph.D., CSP, OHST – Director of Industrial Hygiene - Contractors' Risk Management

Jennifer Monkiewicz – Administrator - ABC MA Self-Insurance Group

Artie Drewes – Safety Manager – Kaplan Construction

Moderator: **Christopher A. Kenney** – Partner – Kenney & Sams, P.C.



Meet Our Panelists



Brian Stevens, Ph.D., CSP, OHST
Director of Industrial Hygiene
Contractors' Risk Management



Jennifer Monkiewicz
Administrator
ABC MA Self-Insurance Group



Artie Drewes
Safety Manager
Kaplan Construction



Moderator

Christopher A. Kenney
Partner
Kenney & Sams, P.C.



- Provide health and safety consulting services to 500 clients in and around New England
- 28 Employees located strategically throughout the region
- Provide expert guidance regarding:
 - Programs and policies
 - Training
 - On-site audits
 - OSHA matters
- Provide loss control services for ABC Self-Insured Group

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) > Communities, Schools & Workplaces > Businesses & Workplaces



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Symptoms

Testing +

Prevent Getting Sick +

If You Are Sick +

Daily Life & Coping +

People Who Need Extra Precautions +

Pets & Other Animals +

Travel +

Frequently Asked Questions

Cases, Data, & Surveillance +

Communities, Schools & Workplaces —

Cleaning & Disinfecting +

Worker Safety & Support +

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), May 2020

Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019

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Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. [Find more information here.](#)

Summary of Changes to the Guidance:

Below are changes as of May 6, 2020

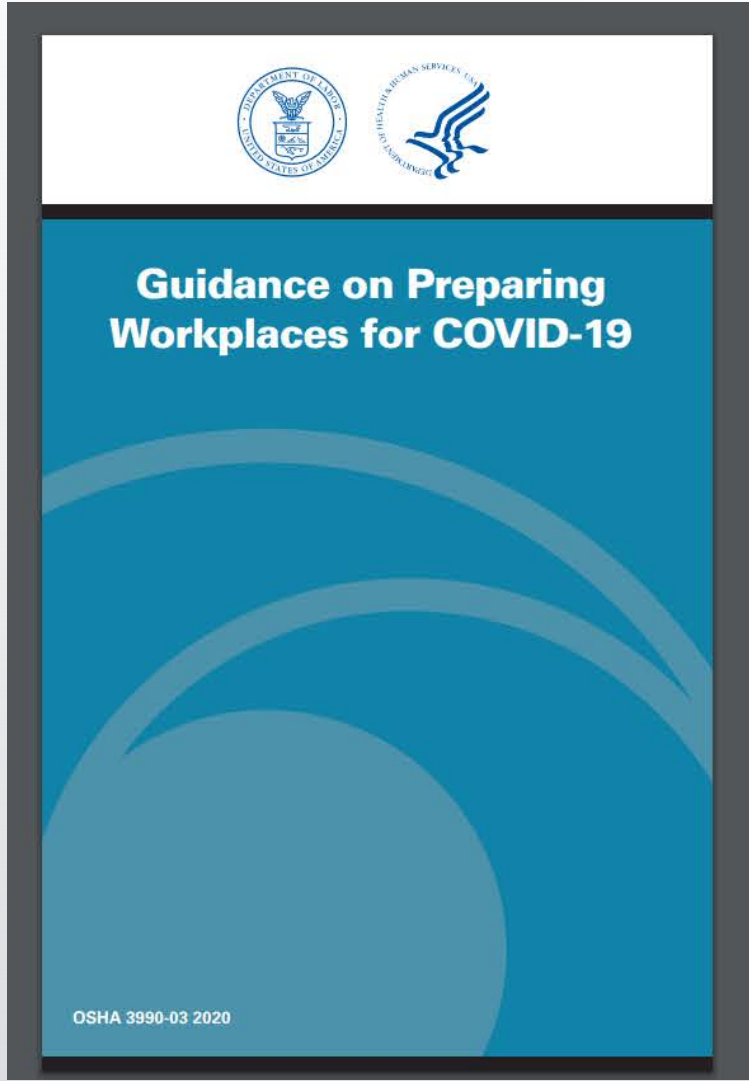
- Updated strategies and recommendations for employers responding to COVID-19, including those seeking to resume normal or phased business operations:
 - Conducting daily health checks
 - Conducting a hazard assessment of the workplace
 - Encouraging employees to wear cloth face coverings in the workplace, if appropriate
 - Implementing policies and practices for social distancing in the workplace

CDC Industry Guidance

- [Resources for Airlines](#)
- [Resources for the Ship Industry](#)

OSHA/HHS Guidance


- [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) 



<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Massachusetts Guidelines (Standards?)

- Mandatory for all public works projects
- “Encourages” cities and towns to implement similar requirements for private projects
- Enforced by local officials
 - Building Inspector
 - Health Department
- Updated May 18, 2020



The graphic features a blue header with the word "CONSTRUCTION" in orange and "MA COVID-19 Checklist" in white. The background shows construction cranes. The official seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is in the top right corner.

A. ENFORCEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

- ☐ A site-specific COVID-19 Officer (who may also be the Health and Safety Officer) shall be designated for every site except as provided below for construction and remodeling in 1-3 family residences
- ☐ Except as provided below for construction and remodeling in 1-3 family residences, the Contractor's site-specific project COVID-19 Officer shall submit a written daily report to the Owner's Representative. The COVID-19 Officer shall certify that the contractor and all subcontractors are in full compliance with sections B to D, inclusive (the "COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance")
- ☐ For large, complicated construction projects a city or town may additionally require the Owner to develop and submit a site-specific risk analysis and enhanced COVID-19 safety plan, which may include additional requirements to address risks specific to the project or type of project. The city or town shall review and approve such plan and may require such projects to pause construction until such a risk analysis and plan is submitted and approved. Once such an enhanced COVID-19 safety plan is approved, a violation of the plan shall be treated the same as a violation of the COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance
- ☐ For all projects undertaken, managed or funded by a state agency or authority there shall be joint enforcement responsibility between the project's public Owner and the city or town where the project is located. The Owner of a public project has the lead responsibility for compliance and enforcement including frequent on-site inspections by an employee or contractor of the state agency or authority who is familiar with the COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance and is authorized to enforce that guidance and shut down work at the site if violations are found. The Owner of the project is required to notify the municipality where the work is taking place whenever a site is shut down or of any violations of the COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance and the resulting corrective action plan, as well as to provide copies of the COVID-19 Officer's written daily reports upon request. While the public Owner has the lead responsibility for enforcement, cities and towns retain the authority to take enforcement action against public projects found not in compliance with the COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance, including the authority to order the project to shut down until a corrective action plan is developed, approved and implemented
- ☐ Cities and towns are authorized to enforce the COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance using their public health staff, building inspectors or any other appropriate official or contractor
- ☐ Cities and towns may enforce the safety and distance protocols including, if multiple violations are found, requiring the Owner and / or Contractor to safely secure the site and pause construction activities until a corrective action plan is prepared, submitted and approved by the city or town
- ☐ The city or town may require the Owner of a large, complicated private project to pay for an independent, third party inspector or inspection firm (or to pay into a pool to pay for such inspections). The third party inspector shall be accountable solely to the city or town and shall be responsible for enforcement on behalf of the city or town. A city or town may require private projects to pause construction until such a third-party inspector has been secured

B. EMPLOYEE HEALTH PROTECTION

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SICK WORKERS REPORTING TO WORK. IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME! IF YOU FEEL SICK, GO HOME! IF YOU SEE SOMEONE SICK, SEND THEM HOME!

Site-Specific COVID-19 Officer

- Does not need to be a full-time equivalent
- Project Superintendent
- Written daily report
- Shall certify that the contractor and all subcontractors are in full compliance



1–3 Family Residences

- Projects with 5 or less workers do not require a site-specific COVID-19 officer
- Company COVID-19 officer
 - Ensure compliance
 - Written daily report
- Handwashing stations, or “provide each employee and subcontractor with a sufficient quantity of hand sanitizer to allow for frequent handwashing”



COVID-19 Symptoms

2–14 Days after exposure:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- (New) loss of taste or smell



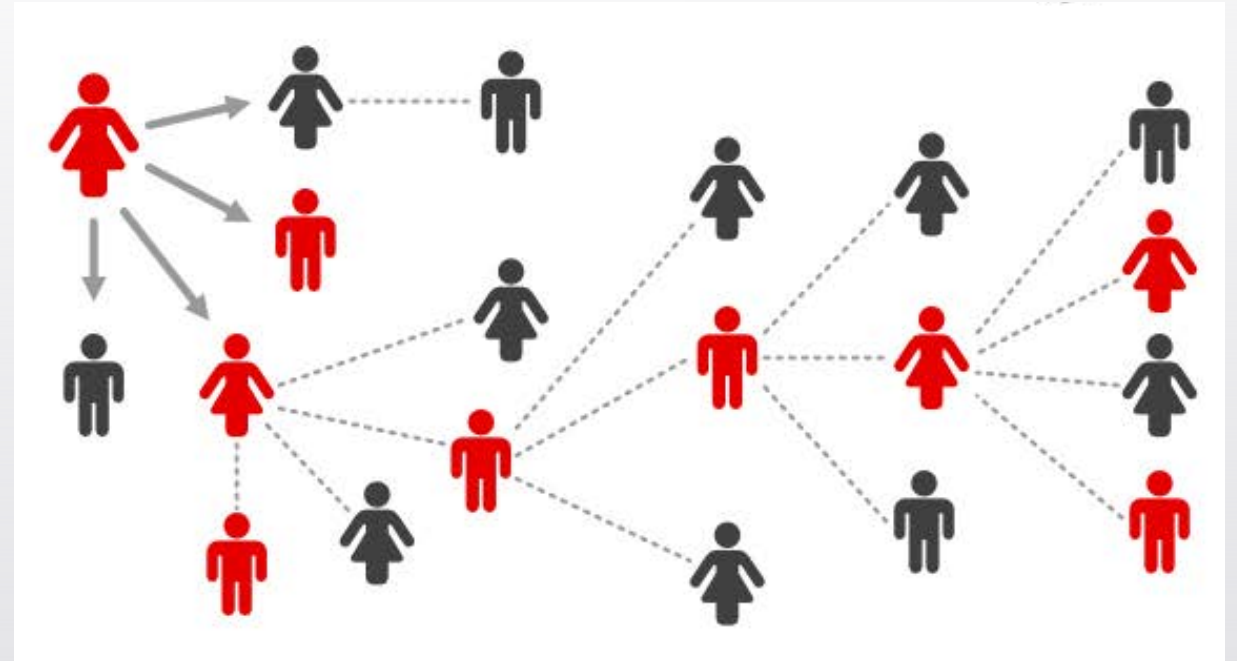
Access

- Keep sick employees home
- Procedures to identify and remove sick employees
- Screening for symptomatic individuals
 - Self-certify
 - Temperature



Worker Infection Protocol

- Identification of exposure
 - Massachusetts Department of Health
 - Local board of health
- Notification and quarantine
- Sanitation
 - Isolate until cleaned
 - Sanitation will be conducted with personnel, equipment, and material approved for COVID-19 sanitization
- Returning to work
 - Close contacts isolate for 14 days
 - COVID-19 cases need authorization from public health officials



Communicate Policies to All Personnel

29 CFR 1926.21 (b) (2):

“The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.”



Communicate Policies to All Personnel

- Safety Stand Down
 - Avoid gatherings
 - Maximum 10
 - Maintain social distancing
- Signage
 - COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
 - Handwashing Instructions
 - Cleaning and decontamination procedures



Communicate Policies to All Personnel

- Stay home when sick
- Respiratory etiquette
 - Proper cough and sneeze etiquette
 - Provide tissues and no-touch disposal
- Hand hygiene
 - 100% Gloves (cut-resistant)
 - Clean hands often
 - Hand sanitizer
 - >60% Ethyl alcohol
 - >70% Isopropyl



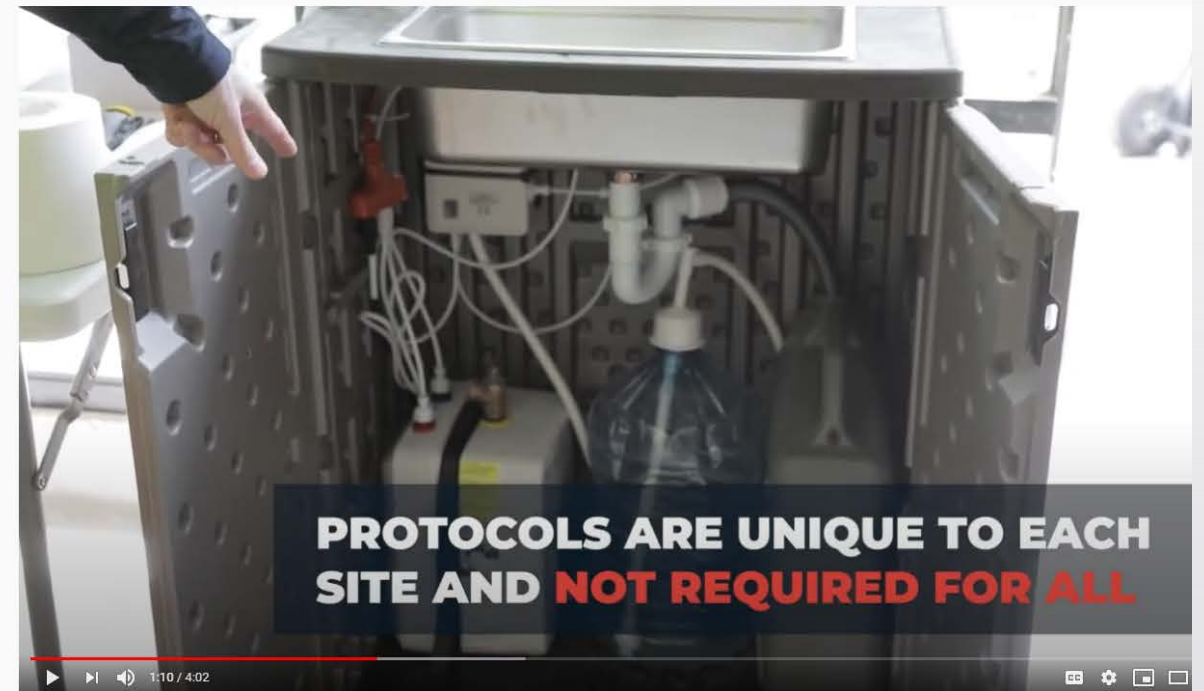
Handwashing Facilities (OSHA)

1926.51 (f) (1) The employer shall provide adequate washing facilities for employees engaged in the application of paints, coating, herbicides, or insecticides, or in other operations where contaminants may be harmful to the employees. Such facilities shall be in near proximity to the worksite and shall be so equipped as to enable employees to remove such substances.



Wash Stations (MA)

- All site-specific projects with outside construction sites without ready access to an indoor bathroom **MUST** install Wash Stations
- Install hand wash stations with hot water, if possible



Common Areas

- Meetings
 - Field offices = restricted access
 - Conference calls
 - Webinars
 - Max. 10 in-person
- Lunch/Break Areas
 - Small break areas
 - Limited seating
- Food Trucks



Social Distancing

- Social distancing (6') will be followed to maximum extent feasible
- Within 6'
 - Gloves
 - Eye protection
 - “Standard face mask”
 - NIOSH-approved N95
 - Surgical/procedure mask
 - Homemade mask?



Social Distancing

- No handshaking
- Avoid face-to-face meetings
- Go outside when possible
- Single-occupant vehicles
- Bring food from home





Housekeeping (CDC)

Perform routine environmental cleaning:

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (421 products)

Housekeeping (MA)

- Cleaning and decontamination procedures must be posted and shared
- Clean all high contact surfaces a minimum of twice a day
- No requirement for specialized of professional cleaning services





Housekeeping

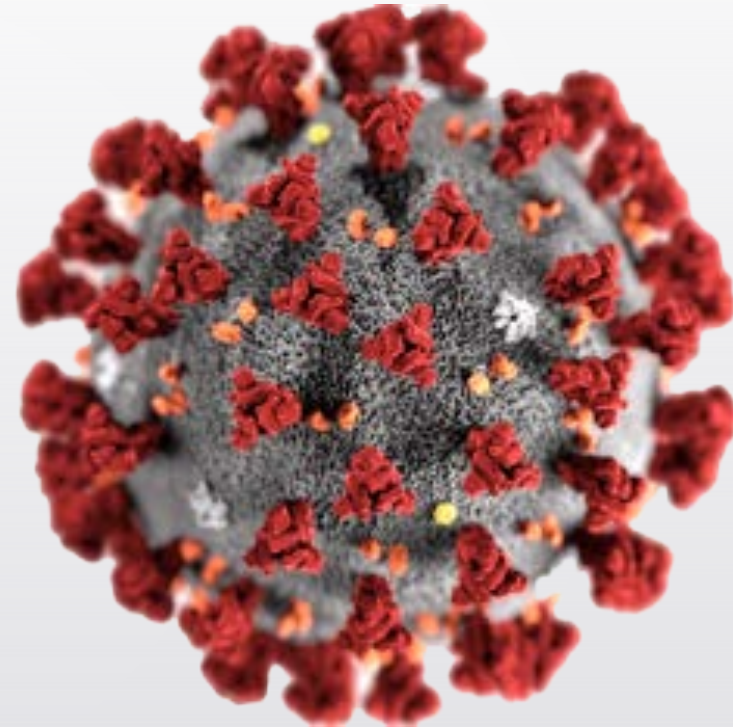
- What about professional cleaning?
 - “Based on what is currently known about the virus and about similar coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS, spread from person-to-person *happens most frequently among close contacts.*”
 - “Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented.”
 - “Transmission of coronavirus in general occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through fomites.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Summary

- Stay home when sick
- Wash hands often
- Isolate when exposed
- Avoid groups/crowded areas
- Routinely clean commonly-touched surfaces

Document Everything!



We are in this together

Most importantly, in this time of crisis, keep yourself, your family and your community safe. We are in this together. Please feel free to reach out with any questions that you have.



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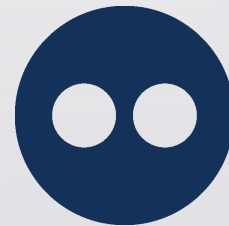
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Thank you for joining us.

If you have any remaining questions, please send your inquiry to questions@abcma.org and we will respond to you as soon as we can.

Get online with us:

www.abcma.org | www.gwgci.org



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