

GUIDANCE TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 AND ENSURE A CLEAN CONSTRUCTION JOBSITE

North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), working through CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training, has issued guidance to all building trades councils throughout North America on steps to take to ensure a clean worksite and reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This guidance includes:

For Construction Workers:

- Don't go to work if you are feeling sick.
- Don't shake hands when greeting others.
- Avoid large gatherings or meetings.
- Try to stay six feet away from others on job sites and in gatherings, meetings, and training sessions.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues if you cough or sneeze or do so into your elbow.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

For Construction Industry Employers:

- Create at least 6 feet of space between workers by staging/staggering crews to prevent droplet spread.
- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- Provide soap and running water on all jobsites for frequent handwashing. If that is impossible, provide hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces on job sites and in offices—such as hand rails, door knobs, and portable toilets—frequently, per CDC guidelines
- If you work in healthcare facilities, train your workers in Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA).

Furthermore, construction industry employers have taken it upon themselves to institute policies that seek to drastically mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 on the worksite, such as expanding onsite medical clinics, adjusting break schedules and setting up mobile facilities to add more distance between individuals onsite. Other steps employers have taken include:

- Screening through asking about COVID-19 symptoms and taking temperatures.
- Adding portable bathrooms and washing stations.
- Implementing alternate work schedules to promote social distancing and limit people on one shift from teams when possible.
- Setting up additional space with overflow mobile facilities.
- Pre-staging certain tools and materials ready for pickup.
- Disinfecting tools prior to check-in.
- Closing onsite cafeterias.
- Suspending onsite mass transit trams and shuttle busses.
- Limiting one person per transaction for tools and materials pickup.