



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Employee Safety (updated Mar 20,20)

The global situation regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve on a daily basis. At this time, the transmission risk level in BC remains low, but here are some basic steps you can take to protect yourself, and how businesses can protect their staff:

What you can do to protect yourself

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, don't touch your face and cover your cough or sneeze.
- Practice Social Distancing whenever out in public space.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms, including cough, sneezing, fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing.
- Call the public health line at 8-1-1 if you have symptoms, particularly if you have recently travelled abroad or have been in contact with someone possibly affected.
- Stay home as much as possible, only going out for essentials
- Stay home when you are sick. No exceptions.

How employers can protect their employees and customers

- Remain calm and take reasonable steps to keep all employees informed with regular updates.
- Stay on top of the latest communication by reputable global health authorities and keep staff informed of any changes and updates.
- Allowing employees to work from home wherever possible.
- Provide Sanitizer wipes to be used at end of day on truck steering wheels, inside handles & other areas of use
- Provide Sanitizer wipes to be used in offices on telephones, computer keyboards, door handles and other common areas of use
- If the virus does become more wide spread in our region, consider the potential impacts to your company (e.g., staffing shortages, supply shortages, management of medical waste, etc.)
- Consider implementing a business continuity/response plan to address risks associated with COVID-19. The BC Health Authority has prepared a specific COVID-19 pandemic response plan in the event that the virus becomes more widespread, and they also have a number of [influenza response planning tools](#) and resources available.

Waste Worker Guidance for COVID -19

- Workers and employers should manage municipal (e.g., household, business) solid waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination like any other non-contaminated municipal waste.
- Use typical engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE, such as puncture-resistant gloves and face and eye protection, to prevent worker exposure.

Medical Waste

- For medical waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination, manage like any other regulated medical waste. COVID-19 is not a Category A infectious substance.

The latest information on COVID-19 is available through the following links:

- [Vancouver Coastal Health / Fraser Health Authority](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Canada travel notices and advisories](#)