

Tips to Help Control the Spread of COVID-19 on Construction Sites

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In Chubb's continued effort to provide our Construction clients with information and resources to assist in proactively managing project sites, Chubb Construction Risk Engineering has compiled a list of certain measures that can be considered within the construction industry to help control the spread of the COVID-19 virus on project sites.

While some of these measures may be specific to certain activities or project types, the concepts can be adapted to different project scenarios.

We hope you will find the below suggestions helpful in your efforts to provide a safe and healthy work environment on your projects and corporate locations.

First and foremost, you should know and obey applicable government guidance and orders concerning the pandemic and consult your attorneys and other professionals regarding how such guidance and orders may apply to you and your operations. In the absence of specific government requirements:

- Limit the number of workers allowed inside of passenger and material hoists, elevators or other confining locations
- Where practical, eliminate in-person meetings (such as production, foreman, safety meetings etc.), and opt for video conferencing or conference calls where possible
- Observe social distancing and gathering rules for your geographical and project locations and avoid customary physical greetings such as a handshake
- Consider hiring cleaning firms to sanitize areas of construction sites such as:
 - Turn stiles at the site entrance
 - Personnel/material exterior hoists
 - Field offices
 - Worker shanties
 - Bathrooms
 - Handrails

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- Require workers to stay home if they feel ill or have flu like symptoms. Don't risk coming to work
- Require appropriate personal protective equipment for workers, including gloves, that are necessary to help safeguard the worker for the specific task being undertaken
- Operating engineers should wipe down and sanitize the inside of the cab and steps leading up to the cab of their mobile equipment
- Wipe down and sanitize the tools, work stations and equipment workers will be handling during the course of the work day
- Increase the number of wash up facilities and hand sanitizers throughout the work site; remind workers to wash their hands often and regularly
- Remind workers to avoid touching their faces, eyes, noses, and mouths with their hands
- Stagger work shifts, break and lunch periods to limit the number of workers on-site and/or in close proximity at the same time
- Limit the use of food trucks and catered meals on site to avoid potential cross contamination
- Limit non-essential on-site construction personnel such as accountants, payroll, and if practical, certain field management personnel; provide work from home flexibility if possible
- For construction sites with on-site first aid or medical facilities, consider designating separate access and treatment areas for workers who seek medical attention for or show flu-like symptoms
- Notify and post signage around the site instructing workers on proper procedures to follow if they have flu-like symptoms, such as where to enter first aid facilities, and contact names and numbers to notify medical personnel in advance of arrival (allowing medical personnel time to prepare for and utilize necessary PPE)
- Obtain local health department or other agency emergency response requirements/protocols related to COVID-19, to ensure your project site management understands their responsibilities regarding off-site treatment, required notifications, etc.
- GC/CM project management teams should update cell phone numbers and email addresses of subcontractor project and field management personnel as an additional means of communications during off hours
- GC/CM should ensure subcontractors update cell phone numbers and email addresses of their labor force, to be used as an additional means of communication during off hours

For additional information and guidance regarding COVID-19:

www.osha.gov/

www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/

www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

www.agc.org/coronavirus-covid-19

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