



Tips to Help Control the Spread of COVID-19 During Re-Opening of Construction Sites

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In Chubb's continued effort to provide our Construction clients with tools and resources designed to assist in proactively managing project sites, Chubb Construction Risk Engineering has compiled measures being utilized within the construction industry to assist construction firms in reopening project sites and helping control the spread of the COVID-19 virus on those project sites.

Many construction projects have been shuttered for an extended period due to the pandemic that has impacted the country. As cities, municipalities and states have begun to lift restrictions, contractors have begun to resume construction activities and remobilize their work forces.

Construction firms must take steps to safeguard their employees returning to the project sites as well as the general public that may be impacted by the construction activities.

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

As critical and important as implementation of safety and health measures addressing worker protection for COVID-19 exposure are, employers must also remember to be cognizant of the daily safety exposures that are typical and expected on a construction site and pro-actively address these exposures.

We hope the following considerations will be helpful for construction firms in their efforts to provide a safe and healthy work environment on their projects and corporate locations.



Administrative

- Establish a **COVID-19 Task Force** consisting of senior executives and leaders from communications, human resources, safety, and operations.
- Develop a **COVID-19 Action Plan** that addresses procedures and protocols required to safely open and operate the project site. Procedures and protocols should follow requirements and recommendations noted by the CDC, OSHA as well as state, city, and municipal agencies.
- Review the Action Plan with all management personnel to ensure clarity and understanding of expectations and requirements.
- Distribute the Action Plan to senior and project field management for sub-contractors prior to remobilization of the project site, to ensure expectations and procedures are understood.
- Assign a Safety Monitor to audit and assess the COVID-19 Action Plan implementation and execution.
- Determine impact to the construction schedule due to shuttering of the project. If the project will require acceleration resulting in extended work hours, consideration should be given to potential safety related exposures to the workers, which may result.
- 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 persons in-advance of arrival (allows medical persons time to prepare for and utilize necessary PPE).
- Post signage throughout the project site (in multiple languages) that informs and reminds workers of CDC and project safety measures required to be followed.
- Obtain local health department or other agency emergency response requirements/protocols related to COVID-19, to ensure your project site management understands its responsibilities regarding off-site treatment, required notifications, etc.
- Update cell phone numbers and email address of subcontractor project and field management personnel as an additional means of communications during off hours.
- Ensure subcontractors update cell phone numbers and email address of their labor force, to be used as an additional means of communication during off hours.

Worker Screening and Training

- Schedule employee orientation (maintaining appropriate social distancing) for all workers returning to the project. Orientation should cover review and discussion of Action Plan, communication addressing company commitment to the safety and health of workers along with a detailed outline addressing safety measures and requirements that will be implemented.
- Consider implementing on-line employee orientation and gathering of necessary worker documentation and on boarding information. This will reduce the need for worker interaction at the project site to complete administration functions.
- Conduct health screenings of all workers and visitors daily prior to entering the project site. Screenings should include body temperature checking, questionnaires, and attestation to good health. Use of touchless infrared forehead thermometers should be utilized. Identification of screened workers utilizing a hand stamp or wrist bands should be considered.
- Encourage workers to provide feedback to management regarding issues/concerns as well as enhancement opportunities.
- Empower workers to speak up and not feel pressured to perform tasks that they feel is unsafe and/or if required safety measures and PPE has not been provided.

Oversight and Monitoring

- Schedule meetings for the Task Force regularly to assess effectiveness of the Action Plan and enhancement opportunities.

- Daily preplanning and briefing meetings with workers for each task should take place. Planning and briefing meetings should include procedures and requirements addressing the COVID-19 Action Plan.

Social Distancing, PPE and Hygiene

- Limit the number of workers allowed inside of passenger/material hoist, 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/gathering rules for your work locations and avoid customary physical greetings such as handshakes.
- 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
- Emphasize to workers that they must stay home if they feel ill or have flu-like symptoms. Don't risk coming to work.
- Wear personal protective equipment, including face coverings and gloves, that are necessary to safe guard 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 equipment.

- Wipe down and sanitize tools, work stations, and equipment workers will be handling during the work day. Workers should be instructed to do this daily.
- Prevent sharing of tools between workers.
- Increase the number of washup facilities and hand sanitizers throughout the work site; remind workers to wash their hands often and regularly.
- Instruct workers to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stagger workshift break and lunch periods to limit the number of workers on-site and/or in 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.

For Additional Information and Guidance Regarding the 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

www.osha.gov/spanish-resources-covid-19.html