



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Employee Safety (updated April 6,20)

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

What you can do to protect yourself

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water (minimum 20 secs), don't touch your face, cover your cough or sneeze.
- Practice Physical Distancing (2 meters apart) whenever out in public space and/or in a shared office environment. Do not gather for socializing.
- 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. Try to travel in off peak hours.
- Stay home when you are sick. No exceptions.

How employers can protect their employees and customers

- Remain calm and stay on top of the latest communication by reputable global health authorities and keep staff informed of any changes and updates.
- Provide opportunities for employees to work from home wherever possible.
- Provide Sanitizer wipes to be used at end of day on truck steering wheels, inside handles, radio mics, & other common areas of use.
- Provide Sanitizer wipes to be used in offices on telephones, computer keyboards, door handles and other common areas of use. Increase washroom cleaning throughout the day.
- Reduce customer access to your business or office, where possible.
- 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.
- For refuse truck drivers & their swappers, take all precautions daily and consider wearing a mask while in cab of vehicle together. Reduce amount of time spent together in cab of vehicle as best as possible.
- Report any virus symptoms to your employer as soon as possible to reduce the spread of the virus to others. Stay home from work & self quarantine for 14 days.

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](#)