

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Construction Sites

### Recent Updates:

11/3/20: Close contact updated to include an individual within 6 feet of an infectious person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

These guidelines have been developed in response to the need for work on construction projects that are permissible under the Health Officer's Orders to continue as safely as possible.

These guidelines are not all encompassing and may need to be tailored to individual construction sites and updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. Contractors should have prepared a new or updated Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan to address COVID-19-related issues and are strongly urged to adopt and implement the following measures under that safety plan. Contractors should review the latest OSHA COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance document (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>) as a resource in preparation of their Site Specific Health and Safety Plan.

### Key Recommendations

1. Ensure individuals maintain a distance of 6 feet apart unless specific work assignments require less distancing; in such situations, strategies should be implemented to allow for maximum distancing.
2. Do not have gatherings of any size, and any time two or more people must meet, ensure a minimum 6-foot separation.
3. Designate a Site Safety Representative (SSR) to monitor and implement all recommended safety practices regarding the COVID-19 virus with all construction workers (workers). Labor supervisors must have the authority, through consultation with the SSR, to halt all activities that do not adhere to the COVID-19 safety practices.
4. An SSR should be present on the construction site at all times during construction activities.
5. For work sites where multiple-contractors share the same workspace, inform all contractors about each site-specific COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guideline. Where one contractor enters the space of another contractor, the most stringent guidelines will be followed.
6. Provide personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and cloth face coverings as appropriate for the activity being performed.
7. Require that staff wear, at minimum, a cloth face covering whenever they around others, including other employees and/or the public.
8. Identify "choke points" and "high-risk areas" where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas, and buses, and control them so physical (social) distancing is maintained.
9. During pick up or delivery of equipment or materials, ensure a minimum 6-foot separation among workers.
10. Stagger the trades to reduce density and maintain a minimum 6-foot separation for physical distancing unless specific work assignments require less distancing; in such situations, strategies should be implemented to allow for maximum distancing.



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11. Modify work schedules to stagger work and provide alternating workdays to reduce the total number of employees on a job site at any given time.
12. Ensure that office staff has the ability to work from home.
13. Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, work tools and equipment. If they must be shared, require that they are cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
14. Place hand wash stations supplied with soap and disposable towels or hand sanitizers and trash cans in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.
15. Require anyone on the project to stay home if they are sick.
16. Employees that are sick should stay home at least 24 hours after recovery, which means their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications AND there is improvement in their symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. If the employee did not have symptoms but tested positive they should stay home for at least 10 days from when the test was done.
17. Any close contacts to the ill worker should be identified and asked to remain at home in quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure. Close contacts include all individuals who were within 6 feet of the employee for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting 2 days before symptoms began until their isolation period ends. In addition, anyone who had contact with their body fluids and/or secretions (such as were coughed on/sneezed on, shared utensils or saliva or provided care to the ill employee without wearing protective equipment) should be in quarantine.
18. Have workers inform their supervisor if they have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone outside of work with COVID-19. Workers who have been exposed should remain at home in quarantine for 14 days from their last contact with the ill individual.
19. Do not require a healthcare provider's note for workers who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work.
20. Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and visitors at the job site.
21. In the event that 3 or more cases are identified within the workplace within a span of 14 days the employer should report this cluster to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821. If a cluster is identified at a worksite, the Department of Public Health will initiate a cluster response which includes providing infection control guidance and recommendations, technical support and site-specific control measures. A public health case manager will be assigned to the cluster investigation to help guide the facility response
22. Establish a daily screening protocol for arriving workers, to ensure that potentially infected workers do not enter the worksite.
23. Regularly clean and sanitize trailers, toilets, and other enclosed spaces such as elevators and lifts as well as high-touch surfaces on job sites and in offices—such as shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, doorknobs, and portable toilets—frequently, as per CDC guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>



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24. Make disinfectants available to workers throughout the worksite and ensure supplies are frequently replenished.

Also, as part of the Site Specific Health and Safety Plan contractors should draft and implement a Code of Safe Practices that is posted in areas visible to all workers and that at a minimum require staff/labor to follow the personal prevention actions noted below:

### *Personal prevention actions include:*

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands before meals, after using the restroom and after coughing and sneezing.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (not your hands).
- Do not touch your mouth, eyes, nose with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Bring food and water bottles from home in order to avoid busy or congested food trucks. Do not share food or drinks.
- Drive to worksites or parking areas by yourself—no passengers or carpooling unless they are individuals who live in your home.
- Avoid sharing items such as phones or tools. If tools have to be shared be sure to wipe them down with a disinfectant wipe before and after sharing.
- Constantly observe your work distances in relation to other staff. Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times unless specific work assignments require less distancing, and wear a face cloth covering when working with others
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared tools, elevator control buttons, and doorknobs.

### **Know where to get reliable information**

Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding novel coronavirus. Visit Public Health's COVID-19 scams webpage (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/hccp/covidscams/>) for information and resources on how to avoid COVID-19 health care scams.

Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in LA County, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
  - [publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/)
  - Social media: @lapublichealth

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Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (Call center - 311 or (213) 473-3231 – Calls will then be routed to LADBS' Call Center or use the MyLA311 Website at [myla311.lacity.org/](http://myla311.lacity.org/) or submit via the MyLA311 mobile app.)
- CAL OSHA Guidance for preparing workplaces: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.

