



Confronting COVID-19

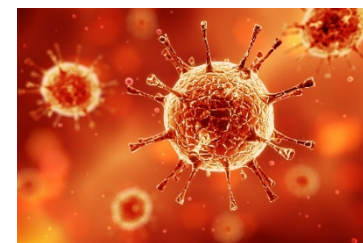
Working in Construction During the Pandemic

Monday, April 27, 2:30 pm

Overview

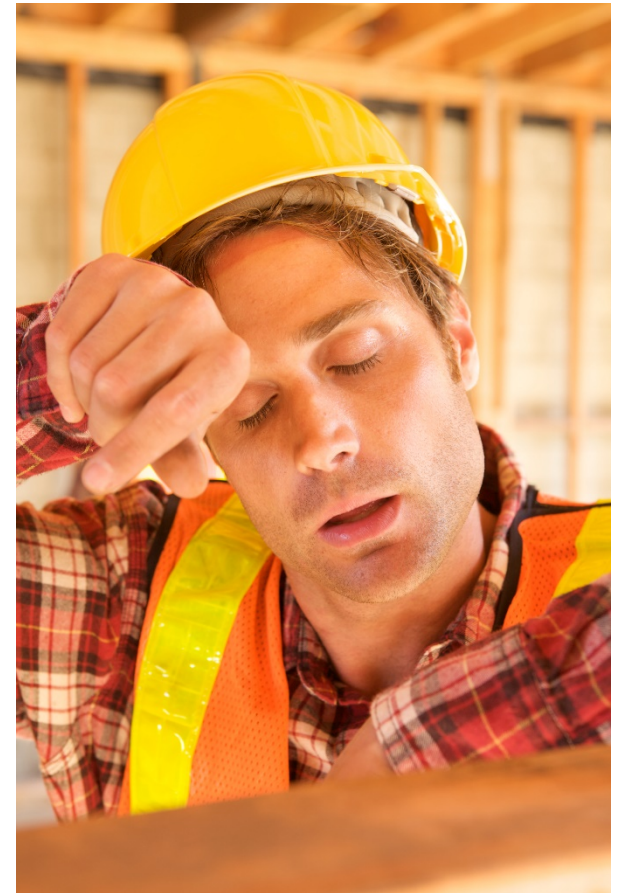
This presentation provides information to help you consider the following:

- Hazards of working in construction during COVID-19
- Health and safety laws that apply to COVID-19 in construction
- Information, instruction and training
- Elements of a COVID-19 control plan
- Emergency procedures and reporting.



Transmission

- COVID-19 is transmitted person-to-person
- Infection appears to occur when virus enters eyes, nose or mouth
- Many infected people do not show symptoms, but can transmit the virus
- Being close to others (within 2 metres) is a potential exposure



Routes of transmission

➤ Contact

- Touching a contaminated surface, or person then touching own eyes, nose, mouth

➤ Inhalation

- Inhaling airborne droplets from another person
- Usually a sneeze or cough



COVID-19 TRANSMISSION ROUTES



In close proximity



- On scaffolds, elevators, immediate work area
- Assisting another worker (e.g. holding something in place, lifting and carrying objects)



- Coffee truck, washrooms, eating and changing areas
- Muster points, toolbox talks
- Shared vehicles including carpooling

Contaminated surfaces

- Equipment
 - Forklift, skid steer, mini excavator, ladders, scaffolds, dollies, heaters, torches
- Devices
 - Rigging devices and hardware, lifelines, fixed anchors, bump lines, fencing, barriers, pylons, temporary anchors, other fall protection devices



Contaminated surfaces

➤ Tools

- Hand tools, shovels, sledge hammers

➤ Materials

- Wood, rebar, angle iron, silt fence, caution fencing, T-bar, stakes

➤ Personal protective equipment (PPE)

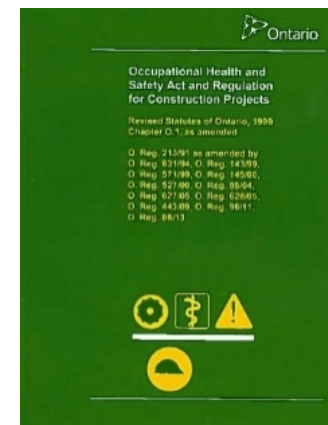
- Harnesses, lanyards, rope grabs





What does the law say?

- Occupational Health and Safety Act
 - Employers and supervisors must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker
- The Regulation for Construction Projects
 - Clean and sanitary washroom facilities
 - Facilities with hand washing capabilities



MOL CPO COVID-19 guidance

- Construction site health & safety during COVID-19
 - Comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations and public health directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health
 - COVID-19 construction best practices, communicating policies, on site sanitation, physical distancing, work scheduling, reporting illness
- Health and Safety Contact Centre at
1-877-202-0008



COVID-19 control plan

- The most effective controls are “at the source”
 - Many sites have been shut down during covid-19 pandemic
- When controls at the source are not possible next best, but less effective method is “along the path”
 - Less effective because these controls don’t eliminate the hazard
- The least effective method is most usually “at the worker,” but sometimes necessary
 - Emergencies, temporary or used to supplement another control
 - (With COVID-19, “at the worker” hygiene absolutely necessary)

Along the path

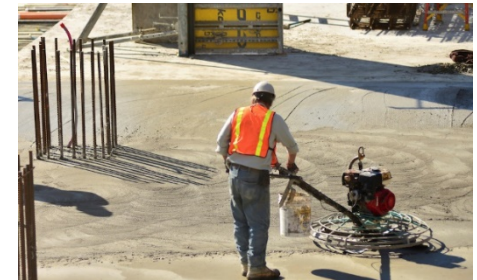


- Reduce # of workers on site or in specific areas:
 - Cease non-essential work
 - Stagger/shorten shifts and lunch/breaks
 - Stagger work crew assignments.

Especially important for smaller sites and areas.

Along the path

- Social distance 2 metres or more
- Work from behind barriers
 - In closed operator cabs
 - Behind safety glass barriers
- Don't share tools, equipment, materials
 - Assign a set of tools for each worker whenever possible
 - One operator for each piece of equipment
 - Only one person handles materials when possible



Along the path



- Clean and disinfect shared tools, equipment, materials
 - Need to both clean and disinfect to kill virus on surface
 - Do after use – before switching operators
 - Sanitize equipment at least twice a day when only one operator

At the worker



- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose and mouth, and especially before cleaning your hands.
- Not always easy!

At the worker

➤ Hand hygiene

- Provide time for hand hygiene several times a day
- Practice hand hygiene immediately after removing gloves
- Wash hands with soap to remove virus from skin
- Rinse hands with running water to rinse virus off skin
- OR use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol



At the worker

- Bring food and water bottles from home to the job site and do not share.
- Drive to worksites or parking areas by yourself
- Avoid carpooling



At the worker



- Safeguards for gloves to protect against other work hazards should consider whenever possible:
 - Safe storage when gloves not in use (i.e. plastic bag)
 - Daily cleaning
 - Instruction for proper removal
 - Hand washing or sanitizing before putting on and taking of gloves.

NOTE: Rubber nitrile gloves are not recommended by public health authorities for work outside health care. Only use as a last resort.

At the worker

Use masks/respirators ONLY if physical distancing not possible

- N95 respirator
 - Standard requires fitted and high-filtering masks
- Surgical masks
 - Blocks your droplets, will block some droplets from others, but is not high-filtering or fitted
- Aside from N95s
 - Your mask protects your co-worker, your co-worker's mask protects you



Info, instruction and training

- COVID-19 control plan needs to be backed up with information, instruction and training
- COVID-19 training for all workers and supervisors
 - On all new COVID-19 procedures – distancing, cleaning and disinfecting and PPE
 - On making and using disinfectants – workers need WHMIS training and access to SDSs



Info, instruction and training



- Toolbox talks (while maintaining safe distance)
 - Daily reminders of COVID-19 safety procedures
 - Checking for signs of infection
 - Dealing with the public e.g. pedestrian traffic, traffic control, home owners, property managers
 - Working with outside workers e.g. engineers, inspectors, security, emergency services

Non-COVID-19 emergencies

- If an emergency situation arises – accident, fire, explosion or structure collapse
 - Rescue or responding workers must wear PPE
 - Other workers – avoid gathering, if you must, observe safe distancing
 - If an evacuation is required – maintain safe distance leaving the site and at muster point



COVID-19 emergency procedures

If a worker gets sick, they must leave the site immediately.
For confirmed cases of COVID-19:

- Upon learning, close site using emergency evacuation while maintaining safe distancing
- Ensure other workers at the site are tested
 - Workers with positive tests must isolate
 - Must not be financially penalized for protecting others





Reporting measures

- Establish clear illness reporting and tracking measures.
- Employers must report all known work-related positive test results for COVID-19 **to the Ministry of Labour (in writing) within four days, the joint health and safety representatives, and trade union (if applicable).**

WHSC worker rights resources

WORKING DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Your rights were never more important.

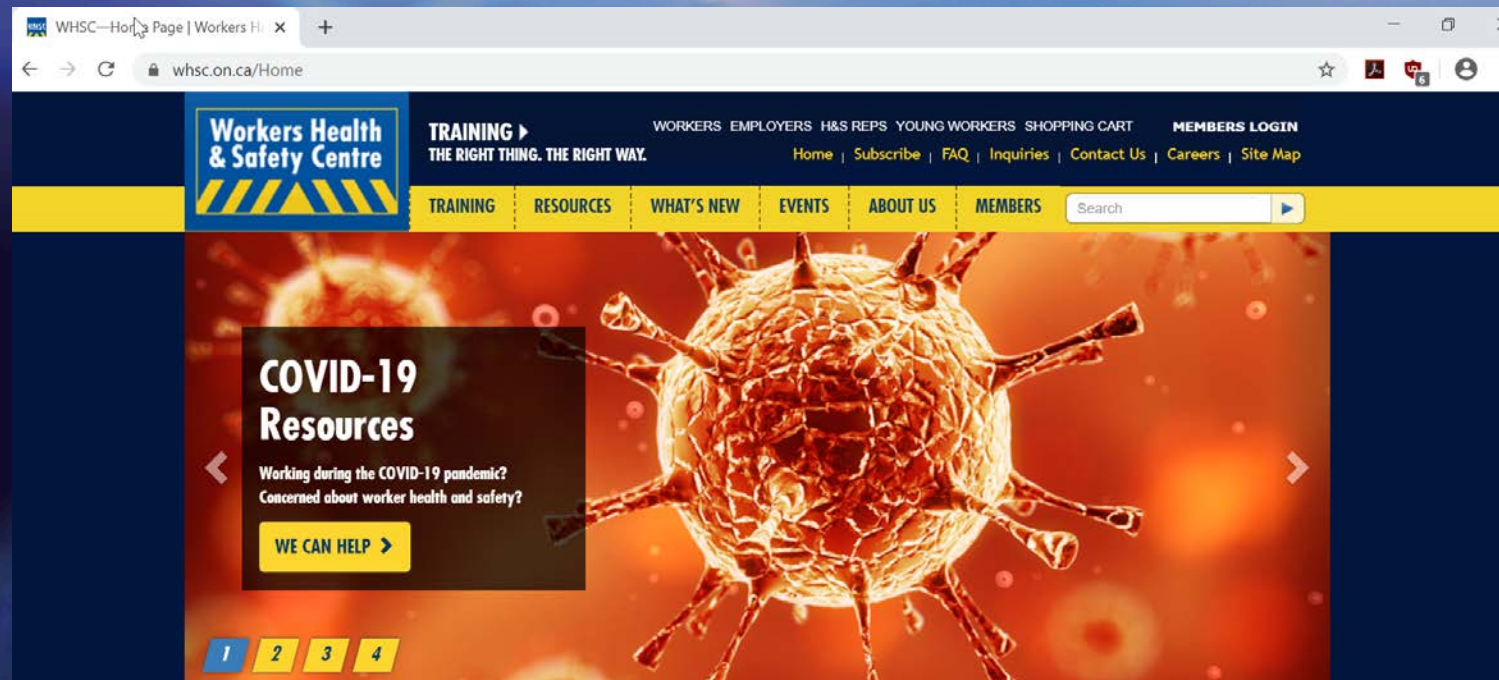
Learn more at
www.whsc.on.ca/Resources/For-Workers

Workers Health
& Safety Centre

TRAINING ▶ THE RIGHT THING. THE RIGHT WAY.



Thank you! To learn more...



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