



OHIO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING JOBSITE SAFETY AND THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Our organizations represent Labor and Management in the Greater Cleveland Construction Industry. The purpose of this communication is to describe the specific mitigation strategies that our members – the Greater Cleveland Construction Industry employers and their skilled workforce – should take to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Greater Cleveland Construction Industry is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce and our fellow Ohioans. Safety is paramount in how we do business.

These strategies are derived from the CDC, OSHA and the Ohio Department of Health's workplace recommendations. Our organizations are promoting the universal implementation of these measures to safeguard jobsites through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The following measures should be taken across the Greater Cleveland's Construction Industry:

- 1. Personal Responsibilities** – It is critical that employees NOT report to work while they are experiencing illness symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, chills, or fatigue. Employees should seek medical attention if they develop these symptoms.
- 2. Enhanced Worker Education** – Specialized communications and posters on the importance of frequent hand washing and hygiene, cough and sneeze protocols, along with the mandate to stay home when an employee is feeling sick or has an elevated temperature (100.4 degrees or higher). All employees must diligently observe these requirements.

3. Jobsite & Equipment Cleanliness

- a. Routine cleaning should be performed on all frequently touched surfaces on the jobsite. This includes, but is not limited to, workstations, countertops, handles, doorknobs, gang boxes, shared tools and equipment.
- b. Project trailers/offices should be cleaned daily.
- c. Avoid using pressurized air or water spray type cleaning techniques that may result in the generation of bio-aerosols.
- d. Restrooms & Hand Cleaning Facilities
 - i. The responsible company should service portable restrooms at a least three (3) times a week.
 - ii. Running water with soap and/or Hand sanitizer should be provided in/or around all portable restrooms.
- e. Lunch/Break Areas
 - i. All common break areas, lunch and break rooms should be cleaned multiple times throughout the workday.
 - ii. Do not allow individuals to congregate in lunch or break areas.
 - iii. No communal food should be permitted on the jobsite until further notice, i.e., donuts, pizza, buffets, etc.
- f. Do not use a common water cooler. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
- g. Tools & Equipment
 - i. Sharing of tools or any multi-user devices and accessories should be prohibited, e.g. iPads, laptops, hand-held radios, computer stations, etc.
 - ii. Disinfect reusable supplies and equipment.

h. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- i. Sharing of personal protection equipment (PPE) should be prohibited. Reusable PPE should be sanitized per manufacturer's recommendation prior to each use. Used PPE should be disposed of properly.
- ii. Use disposable gloves where appropriate and instruct employees to wash hands after removing gloves.
- i. Identify specific locations and practices for daily trash such as: paper, hand towels, food containers, etc. Instruct workers responsible for trash removal in proper PPE/hand washing practices.
- j. Clean surfaces of service/fleet vehicles, steering wheel, gear shift, instrument panels, etc.; use aerosol sanitizers inside closed cabs.

4. Social Distancing Measures – Construction jobsites are NOT densely populated work areas. Nevertheless, the following should also be taken across our industry:

- a. Workers should be instructed to observe a minimum distance of six (6) feet between individuals as much as reasonably possible to increase physical space between each individual at the worksite. This includes pre-work and post-work events of all kinds.
- b. Employers should change their jobsite communications, planning, and schedules to shrink or eliminate group gatherings. This includes minimizing or the elimination of pre-job conferences, communal break locations, and activity that would bring a group of people together on the jobsite. Policies for material deliveries and other third-party jobsite visits may should be altered. These and other measures – which include remote work should be considered and implemented.

5. Daily Employee Screening – To protect employees and the public from the spread of COVID-19, each employer should screen its employees each day before work by following these steps:

- a. Supervisors should ask the following questions to all employees prior to entering the jobsite:

- i. To the best of your knowledge, have you, or anyone in your family, been in contact with a person that is in the process of being tested for COVID-19?
 - ii. Have you, or anyone in your family traveled outside of the United States within the last two weeks?
 - iii. Have you been advised to self-quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19?
 - iv. Are you having trouble breathing or have you had flu-like symptoms within the past 48 hours, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, chills, or fatigue?
- b. If an employee answers “YES” to any of these questions, that employee must stay home until:
- i. they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 72 hours (three full days); AND
 - ii. symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours; AND
 - iii. at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first began.
- c. Do not require a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of an employee sick with acute respiratory illness because healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way

6. Managing Sick Employees – Separate sick employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately.

We will continue to support and take the steps necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and our fellow Ohioans.

Know that the health and safety of our members and their families is always job number one. Responsible contractors and their skilled labor force will continue to provide a vital service to our State.