



## **OHIO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING JOBSITE SAFETY AND 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.

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.

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. Designated Workplace Coordinator** – Each project site should have a designated workplace coordinator who is responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the project site.
- 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. 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 should be altered. These and other measures – which include remote work should be considered and implemented.
- c. Start and end times should be staggered to allow Projects to proceed and allow more space between workers to comply with Social Distancing requirements.
- d. Elevators and hoists should be limited to no more than 3 people if Social Distancing cannot be maintained with more people.

**4. Personal Protection Equipment**

- a. Employees should be required to wear gloves to limit transfer and/or sharing among employees.
- b. Where employees necessarily must work in closer contact than the Social Distancing requirements, heightened PPE should be required, including, approved protective masks, gloves, and clothing.
- c. Each employee must wear a face covering at all times unless a healthcare professional has advised against doing so or more protective PPE is required.
  - i. At a minimum, facial coverings (mask) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.
  - ii. Employers must provide written justification, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

## 5. 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 and restrooms 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. In addition to daily cleaning, 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 and 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. Tools and equipment should be cleaned daily.
  - ii. Sharing of tools or any multi-user electronic devices and accessories should be prohibited, e.g. iPads, laptops, hand-held radios, computer stations, etc.
  - iii. Disinfect reusable supplies and equipment.

- iv. Clean surfaces of service/fleet vehicles, steering wheel, gear shift, instrument panels, etc.; use aerosol sanitizers inside closed cabs

- 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. When cleaning, use disposable gloves where appropriate and instruct employees to wash hands after removing gloves.
- iii. 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.

- i. Occupied Buildings

- i. Establish maximum capacity of no more than 50% of fire code occupancy limit.

**6. 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. Have you, or anyone in your family traveled outside of the United States within the last two weeks?
  - ii. Have you been advised to self-quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19?
  - iii. 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 shall contact their healthcare provider and must stay home until:

- i. at least 14 days have passed since after last contact with a person who has COVID-19 or
  - ii. At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
  - iii. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
  - iv. Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
- 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.
- d. The Designated Workplace Coordinator should maintain a log for all employees entering the jobsite and be able to provide said log upon request from an authority. The jobsite log should include the names of each person entering the jobsite as well as confirmation that the above Daily Employee Screening protocol has been followed with respect to each person.

## **7. Managing Sick/Symptomatic Employees**

- a. 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.
- b. Require employees to stay home if symptomatic.
- c. Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposures.
- d. Employees with COVID-19 who were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
  - i. At least 10 day have passed since the date the employee tested positive.
  - ii. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications and
  - iii. Other symptoms have improved

e. Employees who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 – excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months.

i. Employee stays home for 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19

ii. Watch for fever (100.04), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID 19.

**8. 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 shall seek medical attention if they develop these symptoms.

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.

NOTE: Contractors should refer to the following sources for updated compliance guidance:

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employer to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19), dated 10/27/2020 or most recent version.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, "Steps All Employers Can Take to Reduce Workers' Risk of Exposure to SARS-CoV-2," OSHA 3990-03 2020.