



Covid 19 Safety Plan

Physical Distancing and Other Preventive Measures

The aim is to do everything possible to limit in-person interactions while finding new and more protective ways to operate within the physical infrastructure of the workplace. With this in mind, everyone in the workplace must adhere to the following:

IF YOU ARE ILL:

Do not come to work if you are sick! As per the CVRD COVID-19 Illness Policy, anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate according to the recommendations of the BCCDC. <http://www.bccdc.ca/> Symptoms include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache.

All members who enter the hall must wash their hands or use a sanitizer station to sanitize their hands.

Hand Hygiene

Respiratory viruses like COVID-19 spread when mucus or droplets containing the virus get into your body through your eyes, nose or throat. Most often, this happens through your hands. Hands are also one of the most common ways that the virus spreads from one person to the next. During a global pandemic, one of the cheapest, easiest, and most important ways to prevent the spread of a virus is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Below is a step-by-step process for effective handwashing, to remove all traces of the virus:

- Wet hands with running water
- Apply enough soap to cover wet hands
- Scrub all surfaces of the hands – including the back of hands, between fingers and under nails – for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse thoroughly with running water
- Dry hands with a clean cloth or single-use towel

Cough/Sneeze Etiquette

Our workers are expected to follow cough/sneeze etiquette, which is a combination of measures that minimize the transmission of diseases via droplet or airborne routes. Cough/sneeze etiquette includes the following components:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Use tissues to contain secretions, and dispose of them promptly in a waste container
- If tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the sleeve on your elbow. Turn your head away from others when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands immediately after coughing or sneezing if able and regularly

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Safe Physical Distancing

All members will practice safe physical distancing (2m) whenever possible and if not possible, members must wear a non-medical mask.

Meeting rooms, common spaces all have maximum capacity numbers that should be followed at all times. Maximum capacity signs are posted throughout the building.

Employee Policies

Employees must:

- Practice physical distancing by working at least 2 meters apart from co-workers and others whenever possible or wearing masks when you cannot consistently maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others.
- Continue to follow all other safe work procedures. If it is unsafe to work, talk to a supervisor, joint health and safety committee, worker representative or the Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator
- Stay home if you are sick or might be sick. Use the BC Ministry of Health tool for self-assessment.
- Avoid touching your face
- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds at the start of your shift, before eating or drinking, after touching shared items, after using the washroom, after using a tissue, after handling cash or credit/debit cards, after touching common items, after each delivery (if contact was made) and at the end of your shift.

Unsafe Work

Workers in BC have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard. An undue hazard is an “unwarranted, inappropriate, excessive, or disproportionate” risk, above and beyond the potential exposure a general member of the public would face through regular, day-to-day activity. In these circumstances, the worker should follow the specific steps outlined in the Unsafe Work Procedure document posted on the safety board.

Personal Protection Equipment

All members shall wear appropriate PPE according to OG’s 4.5.1.10 and 4.5.1.11 for the job or training that they are doing.

Facial Masks

As we enter new phases of COVID-19, the rules regarding PPE can change. We will continue to follow the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and WorkSafeBC rules and recommendations in regard to face masks, at this time, they are mandatory to be worn within the firehall and trucks.

Employees will be responsible for the frequent cleaning of them, dependent on which type they choose to utilize. Information for the care and disposal of facial masks can be found on the BCCDC website. Fabric masks should be laundered after each day and dried at the highest temperature setting possible. They must be thoroughly dried before re-use.

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Cleaning Protocols

Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of different materials. The thorough cleaning of surfaces and structures, followed by disinfection, is therefore a best practice measure for the prevention of COVID-19.

Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gloves, garbage bags and sufficient hand washing facilities are available throughout the hall.

After training or a response

- All equipment that has been used shall be sanitized before it is put back into service.
- Once the apparatus is parked and plugged in the cab shall be sanitized which includes all equipment used and pay special attention to frequently touched areas like seat belts, door handles, steering wheels, radios.

Education and Training

A key component to ensure worker's safety is education and training. Employees will be provided with education and training. Supervisors and workers will be provided with information as to the hazards of COVID-19 and the controls in place to minimize harm.

- Worker Return to Work Checklist – COVID-19 Preventive Measures
- The risk of exposure to pandemic COVID-19, and the signs and symptoms of the disease.
- Safe work procedures to be followed, including hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Location of washing facilities, including dispensing stations for alcohol-based hand rubs
- Requirement to clean personal work area with disinfectant wipes
- Proper use of personal protective equipment
- How to report an exposure to, or symptoms of, pandemic COVID-19 virus

Definitions:

"face covering" means either of the following that covers the nose and mouth of a person:

- (a) a medical or non-medical mask;
- (b) a tightly woven fabric;

“indoor common area” means an indoor area of a workplace that is in common use by workers including:

- (a) elevators, lobbies, hallways, stairwells, bathrooms, break rooms, kitchens, cafeterias, fitness facilities;
- (b) a workplace vehicle when being used to transport more than one worker for work-related purposes; but does not include an indoor area in which a worker works, including an area where a worker meets with or provides goods or services to clients, customers, patients, passengers or the like, or an area in a building under construction;

“workplace” means a place where a worker engages in work in or about an industry, but does not include a worker's private residence.

References:

PHO Workplace safety order -January 20, 2022

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-workplace-safety-january-20-2022.pdf>