Employers must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan. To develop your plan, follow the six-step process described at COVID-19 and returning to safe operation.

This planning tool will guide you through the six-step process. You may use this document, or another document that meets your needs, to document your COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Employers are not required to submit plans to WorkSafeBC for approval but, in accordance with the order of the provincial health officer, this plan must be posted at the worksite, and on the website if there is one. This Safety Plan can also be completed from any mobile device using the COVID-19 Safety Plan app.

Step 1: Assess the risks at your workplace

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways. It can spread in droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread if you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your face.

The risk of person-to-person transmission increases the closer you come to other people, the more time you spend near them, and the more people you come near.

The risk of surface transmission increases when many people contact the same surface and when those contacts happen over short periods of time.

Involve workers when assessing your workplace

Identify areas where there may be risks, either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. The closer together workers are and the longer they are close to each other, the greater the risk.

- We have involved frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker health and safety representative, if applicable).
- We have identified areas where people gather, such as break rooms, production lines, and meeting rooms.
- We have identified job tasks and processes where workers are close to one another or members of the public. This can occur in your workplace, in worker vehicles, or at other work locations (if your workers travel offsite as part of their jobs).
- We have identified the tools, machinery, and equipment that workers share while working.
- We have identified surfaces that people touch often, such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, and light switches.

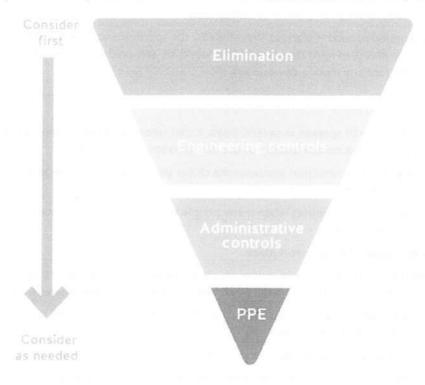
Step 2: Implement protocols to reduce the risks

Select and implement protocols to minimize the risks of transmission. Look to the following for information, input, and guidance:

- Review industry-specific protocols on worksafebc.com to determine whether any are relevant to your industry. Guidance for additional sectors will be posted as they become available. If protocols are developed specific to your sector, implement these to the extent that they are applicable to the risks at your workplace. You may need to identify and implement additional protocols if the posted protocols don't address all the risks to your workers.
- Frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker representative).
- Orders, guidance, and notices issued by the provincial health officer and relevant to your industry.
- ✓ Your health and safety association or other professional and industry associations.



Different protocols offer different levels of protection. Wherever possible, use the protocol that offers the highest level of protection. Consider controls from additional levels if the first level isn't practicable or does not completely control the risk. You will likely need to incorporate controls from various levels to address the risk at your workplace.



First level protection (elimination) — Limit the number of people in your workplace where possible by implementing work-from-home arrangements, establishing occupancy limits, rescheduling work tasks, or other means. Rearrange work spaces to ensure that workers are at least 2 m (6 ft.) from co-workers, customers, and members of the public.

Second level protection (engineering controls) — If you can't always maintain physical distancing, install barriers such as plexiglass to separate people.

Third level protection (administrative controls) — Establish rules and guidelines, such as posted occupancy limits for shared spaces, designated delivery areas, cleaning practices, and one-way doors and walkways to keep people physically separated.

Fourth level protection (PPE) — If the first three levels of protection aren't enough to control the risk, consider the use of masks. Ensure masks are selected and cared for appropriately and that workers are using masks obtrectly.

First level protection (elimination): Limit the number of people at the workplace and ensure physical distance whenever possible

- We have established and posted an occupancy limit for our premises. Public Health has advised that the prohibition on gatherings of greater than 50 people refers to "one-time or episodic events" (weddings, public gatherings), and is therefore not intended to apply to workplaces. However, limiting the number of people in a workplace is an important way to ensure physical distancing is maintained. [Public Health has developed guidance for the retail food and grocery store sector that requires at least 5 square metres of unencumbered floor space per person (workers and customers). This allows for variation depending on the size of the facility, and may be a sensible approach for determining maximum capacity for employers from other sectors that do not have specific guidance on capacity from Public Health.]
- ✓ In order to reduce the number of people at the worksite, we have considered work-from-home arrangements, virtual meetings, rescheduling work tasks, and limiting the number of customers and visitors in the workplace.
- We have established and posted occupancy limits for common areas such as break rooms, meeting rooms, change rooms, washrooms, and elevators.
- We have implemented measures to keep workers and others at least 2 metres apart, wherever possible. Options include revising work schedules and reorganizing work tasks.

- Work-from-home procedures implemented for many staff members.
- Contingency plans for all staff to work-from-home are being actively re-evaluated.
- Drivers of company vehicles are assigned to a single unit to avoid cross-contamination
- Non-staff personnel may not enter the office building unless authorized by management
- Common area (i.e. Lunchroom) has a max occupancy limit of 2 people.
- Common area (i.e. Lunchroom) no longer has seating capacity to discourage indoors socialization.
- 2m social distancing is expected whenever practical.
- Drivers will now take verbal signatures to confirm deliveries. A phone# or other identifier may be used if desired.
- Drivers are discouraged from leaving their vehicle while on-site unless absolutely necessary. On-site workers are expected to offload the vehicles.



Second level protection (engineering): Barriers and partitions

- ✓ We have installed barriers where workers can't keep physically distant from co-workers, customers, or others.
- ✓ We have included barrier cleaning in our cleaning protocols.
- We have installed the barriers so they don't introduce other risks to workers (e.g., barriers installed inside a vehicle don't affect the safe operation of the vehicle).

- Flexible sheet-plastic barriers have been placed in a way that separates desks from high-traffic areas.
- The above barriers are also placed between desks when appropriate or when 2m social distancing is impractical.
- Sanitization of barriers is conducted frequently, often daily, at minimum weekly.
- No barriers have been placed in vehicles due to safety concerns regarding obstructions.
 - Inside vehicles, Elimination and Administrative controlls of risk used primarilly.



Third level protection (administrative); Rules and guidelines

- ☑ We have identified rules and guidelines for how workers should conduct themselves.
- ✓ We have clearly communicated these rules and guidelines to workers through a combination of training and signage.

- Common areas (i.e. Lunchroom) must be sanitized and wiped down after each use.
- Hand sanitizer must be used when entering/exiting the building.
- 2m social distancing is expected whenever practical inside and outside of the office.
- Movement around the office should be minimized. E.g. call / page / email workers instead of going to see them.
- Frequent hand washing is encouraged.
- Frequent sanitization of workstations and vehicles is encouraged.
- Touching your face is discouraged.



Fourth level protection: Using masks (optional measure in addition to other control measures)

- We have reviewed the information on selecting and using masks and instructions on how to use a mask.
- We understand the limitations of masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. We understand that masks should only be considered when other control measures cannot be implemented.
- We have trained workers in the proper use of masks.

- For interior office workers, masks must be worn at all times except when sitting at your own desk.
- For exterior office workers, masks must be worn whenever inside the office building.
- For drivers, masks must be worn whenever leaving your vehicle. All worksites should be considered mask-mandatory.
- Surgical masks may be used in all required situations.
 - Employees must never put themselves in a situation that would require an N95 mask for adequate protection.
- Masks must be worn covering your nose, mouth, and entire chin.
- Face-coverings are acceptable as long as they cover at least as much of your face as a traditional mask.
- Face-coverings other than dedicated masks must be thick enough to stop particulates.
 - General rule: Ok if Opaque.
- Minimum mask requirements are posted on all exterior doors w/ instructions.

Implement effective cleaning and hygiene practices

- We have reviewed the information on cleaning and disinfacting surfaces.
- Our workplace has enough handwashing facilities on site for all our workers. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed.
- ✓ We have policies that specify when workers must wash their hands and we have communicated good hygiene practices to workers. Frequent handwashing and good hygiene practices are essential to reduce the spread of the virus. [Handwashing and Cover coughs and sneezes posters are available at worksafebc.com.]
- ✓ We have implemented cleaning protocols for all common areas and surfaces e.g., washrooms, tools, equipment, vehicle interiors, shared tables, desks, light switches, and door handles. This includes the frequency that these items must be cleaned (number of times per day) as well as the timing (before and after shift, after lunch, after use).
- Workers who are cleaning have adequate training and materials.
- ✓ We have removed unnecessary tools and equipment to simplify the cleaning process e.g., coffee makers and shared utensils and plates

Cleaning protocols

- Office is cleaned and sanitized every weekend and periodically on weekday evenings after-hours.
- Cleaning routine is focused on COVID-19 Safety, including the sanitization and wipe-down of:
 - Door frames, door handles, and frequently touched surfaces on the doors.
 - Washroom surfaces and toilet handles.
 - Kitchen / Lunchroom surfaces, handles, knobs, and appliances.
 - Desk surfaces, desk phones, and chairs.
 - Light switches.
 - Other frequently used surfaces such as shredder, safe, and mailing machine.
- Warehouse cleaning routine involves periodic sanitation of forklift controls and exterior doors.
- Work gloves are to be used for warehouse duties. Hand washing and sanitation habits are still encouraged.
- Shared utensils are discouraged, and disposable alternatives (e.g. coffee stir sticks) have been made available.
- Staff are encouraged to wipe down their own desks frequently.



Step 3: Develop policies

Develop the necessary policies to manage your workplace, including policies around who can be at the workplace, how to address illness that arises at the workplace, and how workers can be kept safe in adjusted working conditions.

Our workplace policies ensure that workers and others showing symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from the workplace.

\checkmark	Anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days must self-isolate at home.
\checkmark	Anyone who has been identified by Public Health as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
\checkmark	Anyone directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
V	Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
\checkmark	Visitors are prohibited or limited in the workplace.
abla	First aid attendants have been provided OFAA protocols for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.
\checkmark	We have a working alona policy in place (if needed).
\checkmark	We have a work from home policy in place (if needed).
\checkmark	Ensure workers have the training and strategies required to address the risk of violence that may arise as customers and members of the public adapt to restrictions or modifications to the workplace. Ensure an appropriate violence prevention program is in place.
Our	policy addresses workers who may start to feel ill at work. It includes the following:
\checkmark	Sick workers should report to first aid, even with mild symptoms.
\checkmark	Sick workers should be asked to wash or sanitize their hands, provided with a mask, and isolated. Ask the worker to go straight home. [Consult the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, or call 811 for further guidance related to testing and self-isolation.]
\checkmark	If the worker is severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain), call 911.
\checkmark	Clean and disinfect any surfaces that the ill worker has come into contact with.
	p 4: Develop communication plans and training
	must ensure that everyone entering the workplace, including workers from other employers, knows how to keep aselves safe while at your workplace.
1	We have a training plan to ensure everyone is trained in workplace policies and procedures.
1	All workers have received the policies for staying home when sick.
\checkmark	We have posted signage at the workplace, including occupancy limits and effective hygiene practices. [A customizable occupancy limit poster and handwashing signage are available on worksafebc.com.]
1	We have posted signage at the main entrance indicating who is restricted from entering the premises, including visitors and workers with symptoms.
\checkmark	Supervisors have been trained on monitoring workers and the workplace to ensure policies and procedures are being followed.



Step 5: Monitor your workplace and update your plans as necessary

Things may change as your business operates. If you identify a new area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, take steps to update your policies and procedures. Involve workers in this process. Reviewing and updating your COVID-19 safety plant A guide for employers will help you review your safety plan to ensure it's effective and functioning properly.

- ☑ We have a plan in place to monitor risks. We make changes to our policies and procedures as necessary.
- ✓ Workers know who to go to with health and safety concerns.
- When resolving safety issues, we will involve joint health and safety committees or worker health and safety representatives (or, in smaller workplaces, other workers).

Step 6: Assess and address risks from resuming operations

If your workplace has not been operating for a period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may need to manage risks arising from restarting your business.

- We have a training plan for new staff.
- We have a training plan for staff taking on new roles or responsibilities.
- We have a training plan around changes to our business, such as new equipment, processes, or products.
- We have reviewed the start-up requirements for vehicles, equipment, and machinery that have been out of use.
- We have identified a safe process for clearing systems and lines of product that have been out of use.

Be advised that personal information must not be included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan

Personal information is any recorded information that uniquely identifies a person, such as name, address, telephone number, age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, fingerprints, or blood type. It includes information about a person's health care, educational, financial, criminal, or employment history. Visit https://www.oipc.bc.ca/about/legislation/ for more information.

