

Employers will play an important role in controlling the spread of COVID-19

Employers have asked for guidance on what to do to respond to the spread of COVID-19 disease. Employers should start taking steps now, and should be using all resources necessary to prepare for and respond to the outbreak.

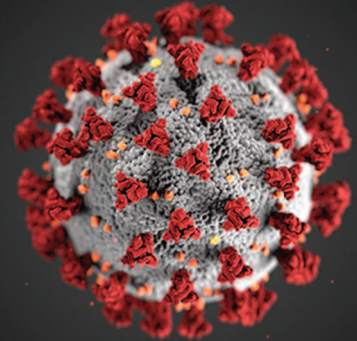
In addition to normal hazard-prevention strategies, like engineering controls or personal protective equipment for specific hazards, all employers should now develop and implement infectious disease safety strategies, including the following steps:

- Implement business/worksites specific social distancing (including worker and customer interactions).
- Post educational posters for employees.
- Encourage sick employees to stay or go home.
- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing with adequate supplies of soap and running water, and when not readily available, alcohol based hand rubs of at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Discourage the sharing of utensils, desks, phones, and work tools.
- Maintain regular housekeeping/disinfection practices.

Social Distancing:

Social distancing can help control rapid escalation of the number of infections. Employers should implement business/worksites specific social distancing strategies to reduce the frequency, proximity, and duration of contact between people (both employees and customers) to help reduce the number of coronavirus exposures. This is particularly important in geographical areas of high disease transmission potential as identified by government leaders and local health departments.

Employers can gather ideas from employees about eliminating unnecessary physical contact with customers or fellow employees. Strongly consider elimination of in-person meetings that can be done electronically. Implement new company-wide greeting practices such as head nods or a wave or other non-touching gestures.



Workplace posters

CDC

Facts about COVID-19:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf

Don't Spread Germs at Work:

www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf

Spanish version:

www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3-spanish.pdf

Stay Home if You're Sick:

www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-item5.pdf

Spanish version:

www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-item5-spanish.pdf



Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

This OSHA document, www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf, contains good guidance for employers with different levels of risk, and provides a thorough discussion of different strategies employers can use.

Working together with community leaders we all can slow the spread of this disease. Your workplace actions are needed. We can also provide assistance through the contacts in this alert.

Other resources you can access

To find an **electronic** copy of this Hazard Alert, go to www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/HazardAlerts.

L&I Safety web page: www.Lni.wa.gov/safety-health.

For other related rules, contact your local L&I office or visit the safety rules webpage: www.Lni.wa.gov/SafetyRules.

To find the nearest L&I office, visit www.Lni.wa.gov/Offices.

How can I get help from Labor & Industries?

The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to www.Lni.wa.gov/SafetyConsultants for more information.

You may also call 1-800-423-7233 or visit a local L&I office and ask for the Consultation Manager.

Washington State Department of Health

Be a Germ Buster:
www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/130-012.pdf

In multiple languages:
www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/HealthEducation

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

What is coronavirus?:
www.tpchd.org/home/showdocument?id=6012

In multiple languages:
www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus

*This alert was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. **This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations.** The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.*