



Precautions for Construction

COVID-19

BHHC is committed to providing your Construction Industry business partners with relevant information concerning Coronavirus (COVID-19). We know you will have many questions about COVID-19 and the impact it will have on your business. These are insights related to some of the most frequently asked questions we have received in regards to your industry.

Preventive Measures

Similar to other industries, the preventive measures that can be adopted by your employees are simple practices and include:

- Washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- Disinfecting tools and work areas
- Staying at home if they feel ill
- Avoiding large group gatherings

Specific to the construction and construction-related industries, additional measures can be taken.

Employers should:

- Coordinate with general contractors and/or sub-contractors to allow only essential workers on-site
- Coordinate with other trades to maintain safe working distances between employees
- Designate a superintendent or foreman to monitor all employees during the workday
- Restrict non-essential visitors from the site

Superintendents, Foreman, & all Leadpersons should:

- Monitor each employee at least twice a day for visible signs of sickness, especially dry coughing, headaches, and fever
- Employees displaying signs of illness should be separated from others and not allowed to return to work until free of symptoms for at least 3 days
- Ensure that routine cleaning of shared tools and equipment is performed (including frequently touched components of project trailers/offices, trucks, gang boxes, ladders, ropes and tie-downs, generators, spider-boxes, laptops, radios, etc.)
- Utilize individual water bottles and do not use water coolers until further notice
- Materials entering the job site should be disinfected where possible and/or handled with gloves
- Appropriate cleaning agents should be used and employees should be trained on cleaning equipment
- Portable bathrooms and cleaning stations should be sanitized as often as possible, with servicing at least 2-3 times a week by the leasing company
- Provide an adequate amount of hand sanitizer and/or soap and water at all times

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- Do not permit shared lunch/food such as pizza, donuts, and coffee on site until further notice
- Lunches and breaks should be taken at separate times where possible
- Safety meeting and work attendance sign-ins can be verbal, telephonic, or electronic (photos, email) in lieu of a sign-in sheet
- Notify any first responders of possible illness if they are entering the site

Employees should:

- Stay home if they are sick
- As always, do not share personal protective equipment
- Sanitize reusable PPE and properly dispose of single-use PPE
- Wear gloves appropriate to the task, or non-task specific gloves (including disposable latex-type) at all times where possible
- Wear eye protection whenever possible on site
- Face masks should not be worn by healthy workers unless necessary for the task
- Do not share tools whenever possible
- Disinfect shared tools prior to and after use
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between each other where possible
- Avoid congregating in group lunches and breaks
- Clean shoes and equipment prior to entering their personal or work vehicle
- Do not use high pressure air or water to spray equipment or clothes (may spread bio-aerosols)
- Upon arriving home, do not interact with others in the household until clothes are changed and hands are washed
- Wash clothes in hot water

Links on Construction Employer Issues with COVID-19

- 1 CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- 2 OSHA Guidance on Preparing workplaces for COVID-19
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>
- 3 CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- 4 OSHA Information for Workers and Employers about coronavirus
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

By making loss control visit(s), evaluations and/ or recommendations, or providing safety materials, Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies and this Consultant have not and do not undertake or assume any duty to you or anyone else, including but not limited to: A) Identifying or reporting upon any hazard at your premises; B) Managing, controlling, or correcting any hazard; or C) Enforcing compliance with any local, state, or federal safety or health law. Our recommendations or safety materials may not address every possible loss potential, code violation, or exception to neither good practice nor will compliance with any submitted recommendations guarantee the fulfillment of your obligations as required by any local, state, or federal laws. Loss Control is your management's daily responsibility. You are urged to implement and maintain your safety and health management programs.

Please contact the Loss Control team at:
losscontrol@bhhc.com for any further questions.