

COVID-19 Best Practice Guidelines | Construction Jobsites

REVISED 04-30-2020

The following represent industry and agency recommended best practices for prevention of infectious disease propagation on active construction jobsites. These recommendations are intended to supplement, or otherwise enhance the guidelines previously established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Personal Responsibility

- Any employee, of either the prime contractor, or any of their subcontractors who presents any symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath), should self-quarantine, at home, and not return to work until:
 - a. You have been asymptomatic (i.e., no fever) for 72-hours (three full days of no fever, without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND;
 - b. Other symptoms have improved AND;
 - c. At least 7-days have passed since your symptoms first appeared OR;
 - d. You have been tested and received two (2) negative tests in a row, 24-hours apart.
- Any employee, of either the prime contractor, or any of their subcontractors who has been in direct contact with anyone who is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 should report that information to their supervisor and should self-quarantine for a period of 14-days, only returning to work if you are asymptomatic at the end of that 14-day self-quarantine period.
- Instruct all employees on the site, that should the need arise to cough, or sneeze, do so into the elbow, or shoulder, if a tissue is not available. Refer to the CDC's guidelines for [Coughing and Sneezing](#).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- In addition to PPE gear already required for specific job-related tasks, all employees should be allowed to wear gloves and eye protection, regardless of the task. **UPDATE:** The CDC is now recommending that cloth face coverings be worn in public settings, where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, which includes certain jobsites. The CDC has developed guidelines for DIY cloth face coverings as well as care and use instructions. That information can be found on the CDC's [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#) web page. Remember, OSHA guidelines pertaining to respiratory crystalline silica and other respiratory protection common to construction jobsites, should remain in force – a cloth face covering does not meet OSHA's requirements for respiratory protection from crystalline silica.

Sanitation and Cleanliness – Personal and Environmental

- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing, per CDC guidelines ([When and How to Wash Your Hands](#)). Where running water is not available, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer, that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Hand wash and/or hand sanitizing stations should be readily available to all workers and should be located near the main building, or jobsite entrance.
- Jobsite offices/trailers and break/lunchrooms should be cleaned at least twice per day with trash being emptied at least once per day. Note: The employee(s) or vendors responsible for these activities should wear PPE as defined previously. After emptying the trash, the gloves should be disposed of and hands washed, or sanitized.
- All high (frequent) touch tactile surfaces within the workplace (i.e., door handles, work stations, countertops, gang boxes and equipment) should be sanitized, with an approved disinfectant multiple times per day. A list of EPA approved disinfectants can be found here: [EPA-registered Household Disinfectants](#).
 - a. Where manufactured disinfectants are not available, the following solutions are approved for use as an effective disinfectant. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for applications, ensuring contact time of at least one minute, per CDC guidelines:
 - A bleach solution mixed in the ratio of 1/3-cup bleach (ensure the bleach is not expired) to 1-gallon of water. This dilution ratio for standard, residential-grade laundry bleach. Consult the manufacturer for dilution ratios for commercial concentrations.
- Where temporary, portable jobsite toilets are provided, they should be serviced (servicing should include the disinfecting of the interior), by the leasing company as is appropriate.
 - a. Before and after each use, contact surfaces (i.e., seat, handle/lever, etc.) should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant solution (refer to previous bullet for approved disinfectant solutions) or wiped down with disinfectant wipes.
 - b. In addition to the servicing performed by the leasing company, the general/prime contractor shall be responsible for sanitizing the unit at least two times per week.
 - c. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer, that contains at least 60% alcohol should be provided at all portable jobsite toilets with the levels checked multiple times per day with reservoirs re-filled as needed.
 - d. Refer to the CDC’s site for How to Clean and Disinfect (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>).
- In general tools, including digital tools such as tablets and other smart devices, should NOT be shared. If the sharing of tools is necessary, they should be wiped down prior to use, with an approved disinfectant, or disposable gloves should be worn when handling, and disposed of immediately after use of the tool has ended.
- PPE should not be shared.
- Shared food (i.e., donuts, pizza, etc.) should be avoided.

Social Distancing

- Until such time as the CDC has lifted social distancing recommendations, all large group meetings should be switched to a digital/virtual platform.
 - a. In the event that a face-to-face, or in-person meeting is deemed necessary, limit the number of participants to no greater than 10 and practice the 6FT, social distancing recommendations of the CDC.
- Where feasible, employees should be encouraged to work remotely, avoiding unnecessary site/office visits.
- Where not feasible to work remotely, on-site personnel should practice social distancing of 6FT, per the CDC's guidelines.
- All conventional tool-box, or all-hands site meetings should be suspended entirely, or limited to foreman only. Foreman should in turn, relay all safety, or other information to their crews/personnel.
- Break area seating should be reconfigured to ensure social distancing of 6FT, per the CDC, can be achieved. On larger jobsites, this may require a shift approach be instituted, or multiple break areas identified/provided.
- Where employees are shuttled to and from jobsites, ensure distancing, which may require additional trips. Where feasible, encourage employees to provide their own transportation to and from the jobsite.

Jobsite Visitors

- To the greatest extent possible, all jobsite visits, by non-construction personnel, should be suspended until the crisis has abated. In the interim, standard visits (i.e., Owner-Architect-Contractor meetings) should be conducted via a web-based platform.
 1. AHJs, including building officials, inspectors, etc., should follow the COVID-19 protocols established by their respective offices when visiting active construction sites for the purpose of conducting inspections or other official business of the AHJ.
- Where jobsite visits are required, all visitors to the site should be screened in advance and asked to answer the following questions. If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then the visitor should not be permitted on the site.
 1. Have you been in close contact with anyone infected with COVID-19, or anyone in self-quarantine who believes they may have been exposed to an infected person?
 2. Have you experienced the recent onset of any of the symptoms (of COVID-19), such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath?
 3. Have you traveled outside of, or been in direct contact with anyone who has traveled outside the United States in the past 14-days?

Special Conditions – Workers Entering Occupied Buildings, or Homes

Many contractors and service technicians perform construction and maintenance activities within occupied homes, office buildings, and other establishments. Although these are not large job sites, these work locations present their own unique hazards with regards to COVID-19 exposures. Plumbers, electricians, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technicians are examples of these types of workers. All such workers should evaluate the specific hazards when determining best practices related to COVID-19.

1. Require the customer to clean and sanitize the work area before the workers' arrival on site.
2. Technicians should sanitize the work areas themselves upon arrival, throughout the workday, and immediately before departure. Refer to CDC guideline Clean & Disinfect.
3. Require homeowners to keep household pets away from work area.
4. Request that occupants maintain a personal distance of no less than 6 feet.
5. Do not accept payments on-site (no cash or checks exchanged). Require electronic payments over the phone or online.
6. Workers should wash hands immediately before starting and after completing the work. Refer to CDC guideline: [When and How to Wash Your Hands](#).

Signage

Prime/General Contractors are strongly encouraged to post informational signage at:

- Primary building/site entrances;
- Jobsite office/trailer entrance;
- Portable restroom facilities;
- Throughout the jobsite, as appropriate

Signage should include modified 'Rules of the Site' that address social distancing, personal responsibility, sanitation and visitors. The CDC has developed a number of print resources, including posters that speak to: hand-washing, symptoms of the coronavirus, "stop the spread", etc. Those resources are available at the CDC's [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Communications Resources](#) page. Other sign resources exist and are available from various local, state and federal agencies. For jobsite specific notices, such as sanitation procedures for portable toilet facilities, the guidelines contained herein may be used.

The preceding guidelines were developed as a tool for contractors to use during the effective period of Alachua County's Emergency Order 2020-09 and should not be considered all encompassing, or considered a replacement of any jobsite best practices or requirements, such as those required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. All contractors should continually evaluate the specific hazards at their individual jobsites and should consult, on a regular basis, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the latest recommendations on prevention and containment protocols. Contractors should also monitor the County's emergency management website, for updates related to COVID-19 public health crisis.