



## GBCA SAFETY TOOLBOX TALK

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) JOB SITE PROTOCOLS

These Job Site Protocols are to be viewed as recommended best practices and are provided solely as suggested guidelines and resources for contractors' reference concerning COVID-19. These Protocols are not to be relied upon to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 on any specific job site or to prevent a safety violation from being issued by a jurisdictional authority. All contractors must continue to comply with all relevant rules and regulations concerning workplace safety and health. This is not legal advice.

### SECTION 1: Worker Personal Responsibilities

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1. Employees need to take steps to protect themselves.
2. It is critical that individuals **NOT** report to work while they are experiencing illness symptoms such as fever of 100.4 or higher (or local jurisdiction), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, dry cough, body aches, chills, or fatigue, or loss of sense of smell and/or taste
  - a. Workers should **NOT** return to work until at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **And**,
  - b. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
3. Individuals should seek medical attention if they develop these symptoms.
4. An individual contractor may require, in order to return to work after experiencing any of these symptoms, a doctor's note or a negative COVID-19 test result.
5. **If you feel sick, uncomfortable, or unsafe, please stay home.**

### SECTION 2: Social Distancing

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1. **Work in occupied areas should be limited to only those tasks that are strictly necessary.**
2. Limit physical contact with others. Increase personal space (to at least 6 feet, where possible).
3. Limit in-person meetings and replace them with phone or online meetings.
4. Take breaks and lunch in shifts to reduce the size of the group in the lunch area at any one time to less than 10 people, ultimately maintaining 6 feet distance between individuals.
5. No large gatherings (currently no more than 10 people) on the job site.
6. Avoid trade stacking, evaluate work schedule and consider things like shift work, resequencing work, etc.
7. Discourage hand-shaking and other contact greetings.
8. Social distancing should be used in hoists/elevators. Social distancing signage should be placed in all areas, hoists, elevators, stairs, and meetings areas. Individuals should be **encouraged to avoid hoists/elevators when walking up or down 5 flights of stairs** to limit contact with others. Depending on the size, hoists/elevators should be limited to 5 people or less when possible. Separate materials and people when possible.

### SECTION 3: General Jobsite / Office Practices

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1. A single point of contact will be identified for the implementation of all COVID-19 guidance. This individual will be responsible for implementation of COVID-19 Recommended Job Site Protocols. This person may:

- a. Monitor for signs of illness in the workplace, and if someone is showing symptoms, ask them to leave. Anyone showing symptoms should **NOT** be allowed to enter any occupied area before leaving.
  - b. Designate a trained and qualified professional (i.e. EMTs, nurses, paramedics, etc.) to take employees' temperatures with a digital, non-contact, medical grade thermometer. Some people with COVID-19 may not have a fever, so this should not be the only means of detection.
2. If an employee is well but someone in their immediate household is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should notify their supervisor.
  3. Attendance at safety meetings should be communicated verbally and the foreman/superintendent will sign in each attendee. Contractors should not pass around a sign-in sheet or mobile device (iPad, tablet, or mobile phone) to confirm attendance.
    - a. iPad and mobile device use should be limited to a single user.
  4. Do not congregate in lunch areas and wipe all common areas with appropriate disinfectant.
  5. Do not share tools. When sharing is necessary, wipe down with proper disinfectant first.

#### **SECTION 4: Sanitation and Cleanliness**

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1. **Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds for all employees.** Hand washing stations are recommended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - a. All workers should wash hands often, especially before eating, smoking, or drinking, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Workers should refrain from touching their face.
  - b. Hand sanitizer is acceptable in the interim between availability of hand washing facilities.
2. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the workplace multiple times each day.
  - a. **Use Disinfectant wipes** to wipe down any surfaces (doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) that are commonly touched periodically each day.
  - b. **Portable job site toilets** should be properly cleaned by leasing company at least twice per week, when possible. Double check that hand sanitizer dispensers are filled.
  - c. Job site offices/trailers and break/lunchrooms should be cleaned at least twice per day.
  - d. Employees performing cleaning will be issue proper PPE, such as nitrile gloves and eye or face protection as needed.
  - e. Maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS) of all disinfectants on site.
3. **Employees should cover their noses and mouths** with a tissue (or elbow or shoulder if a tissue is not available) when coughing or sneezing. Wash your hands after each time you cough, sneeze, or blow your nose, and any time before touching your face or food.
4. Do not use a common water cooler. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
5. Workers should change work clothes prior to arriving home; and to wash clothes in hot water with soap.
6. Utilize disposable hand towels and no-touch trash receptacles.
7. Avoid cleaning techniques, such as using pressurized air or water sprays that may result in the generation of bioaerosols.

#### **SECTION 5: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

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1. **Gloves:** Gloves are recognized as a means of possibly preventing contact spread. The type of glove worn should be appropriate to the task. If gloves are not typically required for the task, then any type of glove is acceptable.
2. **Eye protection:** Eye protection may be a means of preventing exposure and should be worn at all times.
3. **The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.**

Contractors should continue to provide and direct employees to wear face masks if required by the work. For tasks performed within 6 feet of another person, should consider additional respiratory protection. Please consult a professional for respiratory protection guidance.
4. Do not share personal protection equipment (PPE).
5. Sanitize reusable PPE per manufacturer's recommendation prior to each use.