



GBCA SAFETY UPDATE

DEALING WITH CORONAVIRUS ON CONSTRUCTION JOBSITES

In response to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), GBCA is providing employers with guidance on how to ensure workers' safety on jobsites. These suggested policies and procedures for limited exposure to coronavirus address issues specific to construction jobsites. Many construction jobsites lack the same facilities of other workplaces, and can contain challenges to hygiene and other suggested protocols.

Supply portable washing stations or hand sanitizers for workers. Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to protect workers from exposure. Many projects, however, have limited access to running water. Portable stations with water containers should be placed on site to allow workers to wash their hands frequently. Portable stations can be rented from local suppliers or created by workers. In areas where portable stations are not practical, supply hand sanitizer for workers. Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol. [Click here for a list of approved hand sanitizers.](#)

Separate construction workers from occupied building workers. To reduce exposure to possibly exposed or infected persons, implement procedures for minimizing contact between workers that don't usually work together. This may be a problem for jobsites where workers are in occupied buildings. Review with workers policies to keep them safe from exposure. Some policies may include separate bathroom facilities, isolating workers lunch and break areas, and limiting interactions with building employees.

Provide training and toolbox talks for workforce. Information is the key to protecting workers. Discuss with employees the hazards associated with coronavirus. Use informational bulletins circulated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Reference information from reputable sources, as some information you may find on the internet may be misleading or wrong.

Disinfect high traffic areas frequently. For areas of high use, use disinfectants to keep areas clean. Job trailer doors and stair rails, meeting tables, and coffee stations should all be frequently cleaned using a bleach-based cleaner.

Be defensive during interactions with others. During this period of uncertainty, monitor yourself and others and pay special attention to limit social contact with others. Train yourself to not cross-contaminate or to touch your face. Share respect, not potentially harmful germs.

Implementing these measures on your jobsite may help reduce the spread of exposure to the coronavirus. Taking these actions will also reinforce to workers that measures are being taken to ensure their safety. We need to work together to reduce opportunities of exposure for all workers.