

Supplemental Instructions for the *COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Infection Prevention and Control Protocol Template for Silviculture Operations*

Section 1: Revise the responsibilities and protocols to suit your worksite

- The responsibilities are general statements outlining what is required of employers, supervisors and workers. The protocols are specific COVID-19 instructions for employers, supervisors and workers. Additional company specific procedures will be developed later in this document by using a risk assessment process.
- This document is a template that is meant to be reviewed and customize to your operations. The statements highlighted in **yellow** are requirements from the April 23, 2020 Public Health Order for Industrial Camps and other accommodations and must be included in your protocol.
- Think about each responsibility and protocol how it will work for your company and update the wording if necessary.
- Much of the information in this template is from the April 23rd Public Health Order, and the BCCDC's Guidelines for Silviculture Operations.

Section 2: This section has three main parts to complete

Part 1 - Location Specific Risk Assessment

Part 2 - Job Specific Risk Assessment

Part 3 - Develop, document or adopt effective safe practices to eliminate the potential for workplace exposures to COVID-19

Part 1 – Location Specific Risk Assessment

- The site specific assessment page (page 13, red heading) is like a cover page for the plan and is generally describes the type of operation. For example: a tree planting or brushing operation. The assessment of the specific locations or worksites like blocks, roads or other locations (Part 1) and the assessment of the jobs (Part 2) occurs later in the plan.
- Larger companies with a Joint Health and Safety Committee will have some of the members of the committee involved in the assessment. Smaller companies with worker health and safety representatives will involve them in the assessment.
- The objective is to assess all the locations and jobs involved in the operation. For example: planting trees, using an ATV, unloading and loading trees, operating a brush saw or chain saw, first aid, etc.
- Review and update your plan regularly. The frequency and who is to do this review is defined in this section. Employers and supervisors should also review the plan at least weekly to ensure that it is current and identify any necessary updates.

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- The Guideline for Risk Assessment for Covid-19 (page 28) shows the suggested controls for different exposure levels to Covid-19. Most forestry work will be in the low risk category however first aiders and any staff that may be involved with COVID-19 infected people at the worksite are at a higher risk and require additional protection as outlined in the table.
- It is up to the employer to determine who the qualified person is that must be part of the risk assessment process. This will be someone who is knowledgeable about how the work is done and the hazard of COVID-19.
- For Part 1 - Risk Assessment by Location, instructions are located on page 15 of the plan. The goal is to assess the risks at each location and recommend practices to minimize those risks. Based on those recommendations, specific safe practices will be developed in Part 3.
- Assessments should be done for all locations such as: cut blocks, camps, kitchens, eating areas, motels, trucks, crew boats, helicopters, offices, trailers, shops, washrooms, showers, etc.

Part 2 – Job Specific Risk Assessment

- Specific instructions are located on Page 20 of the template.
- The goal of this part is to assess all of the types of jobs for the operation in order to help with the development of controls. Those jobs with medium to high risk of exposure should have safe practices developed.
- For the contact frequency column, the frequency is stated for each of the potential exposures (For example: S=Supervisor, W=Workers, etc.)

Part 3 - Develop, document or adopt effective mitigation controls to eliminate the potential for workplace exposures

- Specific instructions are located on page 23 of the template.

Use the recommendations in the two risk assessments (Part 1 and 2) to update your safety program to create controls (practices and procedures) that will minimize exposure to the virus. Focus on elimination of the risk first, then substitution, then engineering controls, then procedures and other administrative controls and finally PPE as the last line of defense. For more information on risk and controls: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/managing-risk/controlling-risks>



BC Forest Safety
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Where can I find out more information?

You can find reliable information by visiting the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#), the [BC Public Health Services Authority](#), the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).