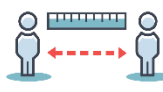BC **Forest Safety**

PREVENTION

Wash hands **Avoid touching** **Wear Mask** **Social distance** **Use alcohol based** **Stay home**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN
COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

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1.0 Overview of Best Practices

THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES GENERAL BEST PRACTICES RELATING TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHEN AVAILABLE.

Until further notice from the Provincial Health Officer, Public Health is still conducting contact tracing to limit the spread of COVID-19. These procedures are designed to help manage COVID-19 exposures on work sites.

Consider using work pods to reduce the spread of communicable diseases including COVID-19. A work pod is a group of workers who consistently work together so close contact is limited to the pod.

When someone who has been on-site is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19

Follow these procedures and track, using a flow chart, if someone on-site meets any of the following criteria:
1. Been tested for COVID-19 in the past 10 days and the results of the test are not yet available.
2. Tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days.
3. Developed symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 10 days and has not yet been tested for COVID-19.

This individual will be referred to as the "*case*".

When can the *case* return to the site?

Until COVID-19 testing results are available, the *case* should not be permitted back on-site until they are no longer experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 **AND** 10 days have passed since they developed symptoms. Individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must seek testing for COVID-19. If the test result is negative, they may be able to return to work before the end of the 10-day isolation period if they are no longer experiencing symptoms. If they are a close-contact of a confirmed *case* of COVID-19, or if they have travelled outside of Canada, they are required to isolate even if the test result is negative. Follow the guidance from medical professionals when available.

The *case* can use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool **bc.thrive.health** or call 811 for more information about testing.

If the *case* is hospitalized or otherwise under the care of a medical professional, they should not return to work until the medical professional has determined it is appropriate.

Cleaning the site

Clean and disinfect all touch-surfaces in the area where the *case* was present. Follow the BCFSC procedures for Communicable Disease Surface Cleaning and Disinfection.

Should other teams or workers be isolated?

Identify any individuals who have been in CLOSE CONTACT with the *case*. These individuals may need to self-isolate for 14 days if the *case* tests positive for COVID-19. Follow the directions of public health contact tracers.

2.0 Close Contact Definition

A close contact is defined as someone who has:

- Had direct contact with infectious body fluids of the *case* (e.g. was coughed or sneezed on).
- Had close contact (within 2 metres) with the *case* for more than 15 minutes without use of protective measures (e.g. masks or barriers) while the *case* was exhibiting symptoms or up to 48 hours before the *case* developed symptoms.
- Some interactions less than 15 minutes may also be considered close contact. Follow the guidance of contact tracers.

While awaiting testing results for the *case*, close contacts may continue to work unless they develop symptoms. During this time, they should maintain physical distance (2 metres) from other workers and self-monitor for symptoms.

If the *case* tests positive for COVID-19, close contacts should self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days since their last contact with the *case*. Public Health can provide further information on what to do in the event of a positive test result.

1. Wherever possible, the *case*'s work crew should work separately from other work crews (e.g. in a different room, on a different shift, etc.) until COVID-19 test results are available or, in the *case* of a positive test result, for 14 days after the *case* developed symptoms.
2. If any workers who have had close or non-close contact with the *case* develop symptoms, then they should also be considered as *case*s and the steps should be repeated.

www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation

3.0 Contact Tracing and Communication

If the *case* tests positive for COVID-19, Public Health officials will conduct a public health investigation to determine if that person was at work during the time they were infectious. Follow any guidance provided by the Public Health officials at this time. The Public Health officials may require your assistance to identify and notify close contacts.

Notify all staff and any other people who were on site at the same time as the *case* so that they can self-monitor for symptoms.

Confidentiality matters. Keep in mind that a positive COVID-19 diagnosis is a medical diagnosis and is to be treated as having confidential medical information. Ensure that the infected employee is not identified by name as having contracted the virus.

Ensure that your employees and other people on site are aware of what has been done to protect them. Communicate what steps have been taken to disinfect the workplace to your team, along with what to do if they are having concerns.

4.0 Positive Test Results Response

EMPLOYEE RECEIVES POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

EMPLOYEE(S) TO **SELF-ISOLATE** Immediately for at least 10 days

EMPLOYEE(S) TO **NOTIFY EMPLOYER**

PUBLIC HEALTH TO **NOTIFY EMPLOYER**

EMPLOYER TO **NOTIFY ALL STAFF** of positive case

PUBLIC HEALTH TO **NOTIFY CLOSE CONTACTS** To self-isolate for at least 14 days and monitor for symptoms

PUBLIC HEALTH TO **INVESTIGATE**

IF A SITE **NOTIFY ON-SITE SAFETY OFFICER**

EMPLOYEE(S) **HAS SYMPTOMS**

ALL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE NOT CLOSSE-CONTACTS **SELF-MONITOR**

EMPLOYEE(S) **DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS**

EMPLOYEES **CONTINUE TO WORK AND NOTIFIES EMPLOYER**

EMPLOYEE(S) **TO ISOLATE AND GET TESTED**

EMPLOYEE(S) **TEST IS NEGATIVE**

EMPLOYEE(S) **TEST IS POSITIVE**

EMPLOYEE(S) **NOTIFIES EMPLOYER AND FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE REGARDING RETURN-TO-WORK**