

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention:

General Workplace Requirements – SUMMARY

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) requires employers to provide safe and healthy workplaces and to implement the Governor's order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Mandatory General Requirements for Employers*



Social Distancing

- Ensure employees keep at least six feet away from coworkers and the public when feasible.
- If social distancing isn't feasible, barriers and other proven prevention methods must be used to prevent transmission of coronavirus.



Frequent and Adequate Hand Washing

- Provide fixed or portable hand washing facilities with clean and hot or tepid water, soap, and paper towels.
- Require hand washing when arriving at work, taking breaks, using the bathroom, before and after eating, drinking or using tobacco products, and after touching contaminated surfaces.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations/supplies, wipes, or towelettes in portable containers to facilitate frequent hand sanitizing (between hand washing) after handling objects touched by others.



Routine and Additional Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing.
- Ensure adequate supplies for scheduled cleaning, and for deep cleaning and sanitizing after a suspected COVID-19 case.
- Ensure floors, counters, and other surfaces are regularly cleaned and sanitized.
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces often.
- Ensure employees use protective gloves and eye/face protection when handling chemicals.

- Make sure shared work vehicles are cleaned and disinfected each time different occupants use the vehicle and regularly if the same person uses it.
- Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for all disinfectants on site.



Establish Procedures for Sick Workers

- Require sick workers to stay home or remain isolated if they are in farm housing.
- Identify and send home or isolate workers who develop signs of COVID-19 illness.
- Cordon off areas temporarily until they are deep cleaned and sanitized after reports of an employee with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness.



Employee Education on COVID-19 Workplace Hazards

In the language best understood by employees, ensure they know:

- The signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with COVID-19 illness.
- How to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at work.
- How to effectively wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- The importance of covering coughs and sneezes, and not touching the face with unwashed hands.

* This is a summary. For more details, see F414-164-000 *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces*.

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Washington State Department of
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