



COVID-19 Construction Industry Guidance

Greetings!

We are at a critical stage of controlling the COVID 19 pandemic; being told it is incumbent upon us all to take the necessary precautions to slow the advancement of this deadly virus.

The messaging from various levels of government, and rules in place governing construction work, have been confusing and have left many wondering about the right course of action.

Justin Trudeau is making public statements in the media asking citizens to stay home, while the provinces allow work to continue.

The Government of BC has placed very few restrictions on business operations. Even the recent Ontario and Quebec provincial government announcements of workplace shutdowns have exemptions for construction along with many other businesses.

Guidance For Construction Projects

The provincial government recently issued a letter of guidance for the construction industry which lays out procedures employers must follow. This directive is targeted specifically to the construction industry and attempts to give direction to employers but still leaves many questions unanswered.

The public health officer is directing employers to take all necessary precautions to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission and illness to themselves and their employees. This includes:

- There should be no more than 50 people in the same space in any circumstances.
- Where possible employees should maintain a distance of 2 metres apart from each other.
- Post signage that limits the number of occupants in any elevator to four people at a time.
- Reduce in-person meetings and other gatherings and hold site meetings in open spaces or outside.
- Increase the number of hand washing stations and post signage that identifies their location.
- Maintain a list of employees that are currently working on sites and update this list daily.
- All common areas and surfaces should be cleaned at the end of each day. Examples include washrooms, shared offices, common tables, desks, light switches, and door handles.

Anyone with COVID-19 like symptoms such as sore throat, fever, sneezing, or coughing must self-isolate at home for 14 days.

Section 4.85 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation ([found here](#)) does provide for a minimum standard around the provision of washrooms and hand washing facilities. Where plumbed facilities are impracticable, employers must provide access to portable washroom and hand-washing facilities. Those facilities must be maintained in good working order, and must be provided with the supplies necessary for their use.

[Click here](#) to read the full bulletin.

In addition to the Province's guidance for employers, DC38 is also advising members who are sick to stay home and self-isolate, and to request a Record of Employment (ROE) from their employer, indicating Code D illness.

It is important that we all take the necessary precautions and adhere to the following advice from the BC CDC:

- Practice social distancing at all times
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid others who are unwell
- Stay home when you are sick

Reporting Unsafe Working Conditions

If you have concerns about the safety of your jobsite or general inquiries, please reach out to your Business Representative and they will be able to help you get the answers you need. Their contact information is below.

If you wish to share your jobsite concerns anonymously, please send an email outlining your concerns to our new email address covidreports@dc38.ca. Please include the following information:

1. Jobsite address;
2. Project name; and
3. Nature of complaint.

All submissions will be treated with the strictest of confidence; names and email addresses will be redacted and only the complaint details and jobsite location will be shared with Worksafe BC. In order to further increase privacy, complaints from all construction Unions will be submitted to WorkSafe through a third party, the BC Building Trades.

Finally, we have added a COVID-19 page to our website([here](#)) with the intent of keeping members up-to date during this continually evolving situation. We will be updating the page when information changes, or when new information is received. You will also be able to find all past email correspondence on the page.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your Business Representative or our office. We are here to support you.

Fraternally,
IUPAT District Council 38

Dan Jajic
Business Manager

Contact Us

If you have any questions, you can reach our offices by calling:

- Greater Vancouver **604-524-8334**
- Toll-free **1-800-266-1527**
- e-mail officeservices@dc38.ca
- Prince George **250-962-6951**
- Greater Victoria **250-385-8312**

Office Hours

While the office staff will continue to be available from 8:30am to 4:30pm, both from the office and from home, we ask for your patience as we expect there may be times when we will not be able to respond to you as quickly as we'd like.

We will continually monitor the situation and return to regular business services when it is safe to do so.

Business Representatives

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