

Safety Committee
COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Control Guidance
8-1-2020

The COVID-19 virus is an additional recognized hazard in the workplace. Multiple levels of safeguards (controls) are necessary to prevent or reduce the potential for exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. An established COVID-19 Safety Plan with supporting protocols is a must at each business.

One of the first steps, is a COVID-19 worksite risk assessment. A joint committee of both hourly and salary workers taking a deeper look at job tasks, policies, and procedures for any potential COVID-19 spreading or exposures. The overall safety management system addressing social distancing, hygiene, cleaning, PPE, facial coverings, tooling, vehicles, machinery, disinfection, training, contractor and visitor protocols, travel, exposure, person of higher risks, chemicals must be assessed and select appropriate controls.

When completing the assessment talk to the workers of the area you are evaluating, to explain the work and procedures in place. Those who do the task can provide valuable information on how to control risks. Documenting the risk assessment is key. There are many different forms to choose from, there is no required form or risk assessment process. Controls or interim controls should be applied prior to continuing the specific task or operation.

OSHA has provided support:

Guidance on Preparing the Workplace: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Hazard COVID-19 Recognition: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/hazardrecognition.html>

Dividing the exposures into four different levels, as shown here: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3993.pdf>

Controlling hazards: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardoustoxicsubstances/control.html>

CDC support:

Assessing Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 Illness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/assessing-risk-factors.html>

Investigating and responding to COVID-19 cases **in non-healthcare** work settings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/non-healthcare-work-settings.html>

Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions **for Healthcare Personnel** with Potential Exposure to COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

IUE-CWA support: Contact the Safety Department if you need assistance or additional resources for conducting a risk assessment.

