

March 13, 2020

Construction Management of Covid-19

As you know, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Covid-19 a pandemic. In response, government and major private sector organizations have taken unprecedented moves to slow the spread of the disease by closing down schools and most large public gatherings.

The impact on the financial market has been devastating, and our long cycle of economic growth has come to an end. This has all led to considerable concern and a general overreaction to the challenge.

Your workforce will be concerned about their health, and as an employer, it is up to you to address this by putting policies and procedures in place and communicate them to your workers.

Key Messages for Employees:

We are constantly monitoring the updates posted by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario. At this time, the risks posed by the COVID-19 to Ontarians remains low.

Visit www.Ontario.ca/coronavirus for updates and recommendations for managing the virus.

Regularly update your employees about the situation and adjust your health and safety program to provide appropriate protection.

Consider the following actions:

- Review your Fit for Duty Policy. Make sure your policy is clear that if employees are not well or experiencing any symptoms, they must stay at home and not risk other employees.
- Develop a policy in the event that an employee tests positive. Will you isolate their crew or others? Use the authority's proposed best practices to develop this. Communicate this policy to all employees to assure them that you are acting to protect their health.
- Provide all employees with advice on protecting themselves. Better protection from the virus is the best way to reduce the likelihood of infection and will keep employees safe.
- Toolbox talks should focus on protection through good hygiene. Distribute and display the attached infographic by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, with ten tips for employees.
- Assure your staff that you and the government recommend they maintain their day to day activities for both work and home. Be smart about close contacts and good hygiene and get medical attention at the first sign of illness.

OGCA will continue to update the above as the situation evolves.