



COVID-19 FAQ's for Building Trades Union Members

The safety of Building Trades members is our top priority. The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades continues to monitor the impacts of the coronavirus and the disease COVID-19 on the Minnesota Construction Industry. We have developed the following questions and answers to help union members better understand their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBER HEALTH

What can I do on the job site that could help protect me from the coronavirus?

The following are steps workers should be taking now:

- **Don't go to work if you are feeling sick.**
- Don't go to work if you have a fever.
- Don't go to work if you have a cough or shortness of breath.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- **Wear a cloth face covering.**
- Don't shake hands when greeting others.
- Avoid large gatherings or meetings of 10 people or more.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others on job sites and in gatherings, meetings, and training sessions.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues if you cough or sneeze or do so into your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When hand washing isn't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean your hands frequently, including before and after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Bring food and water bottles from home to the job site and do not share.
- Drive to worksites or parking areas by yourself—no passengers or carpooling.
- Wipe down interiors and door handles of machines or construction vehicles, and the handles of equipment and tools that are shared, with disinfectant prior to entering.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms—ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Check this resource to help identify your symptoms: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/isitcovid.pdf>

If I have COVID-19 symptoms should I report to work?

No. You should stay home. You should call your employer and your union to let them know of your symptoms. You should also contact your health care provider.

What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19?

Stay home. You should also let your employer and union know if you test positive so that they can help identify anyone with whom you worked in close contact. You should not return to work until all the following occur:

- You have tested negative,
- You have not registered a temperature at or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for three days without taking medication to reduce your temperature;
- You no longer have respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath); and
- At least ten (10) days have passed since your symptoms began.
- ***Please do not go and get your personal items from the worksite. Please stay home.***

What does it mean to be in close contact with someone who has COVID-19?

Close contact can occur while at work; at home; or caring for, living, or working with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a person confirmed to have COVID-19.

“Close contact” is generally defined as:

- Being within approximately 6 feet of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes; or
- Being coughed or sneezed on by someone with COVID-19; or
- Any additional more stringent guidelines set forth by the specific building project site policies and procedures.

What should I do if I learn that I have been in close contact with someone at work who has COVID-19?

It is suggested that if you are contacted that you have been in close contact with someone at work, you should:

- Immediately leave the job site and not return for 14 days.
- Self-quarantine for 14 days.
- If any symptoms arise, you should notify your employer and union and contact your health care provider to get seek tested.

What should I do if I learn that I have been in on a jobsite where someone has tested positive for COVID-19 but I was not in close contact with that individual?

It is suggested that Individuals who have not been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not need to self-quarantine but:

- You should monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If any symptoms arise, you should notify your employer and union and contact your health care provider to get seek tested.
- You should not be dispatched or moved to a new building construction project for 14 days.

What are construction tasks that have risk for getting COVID-19 at a jobsite?

The CDC has identified the types of risk for certain construction tasks.

- **Low risk:** Tasks that allow employees to remain at least 6 feet apart and involve little contact with the public or visitors.
- **Medium risk:** Tasks that require workers to be within 6 feet of one another.
- **High risk:** Entering an indoor work site occupied by people such as other workers suspected of having or known to have COVID-19, including when an occupant of the site reports signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19.