



CORONAVIRUS PROTOCOLS FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In BC the construction industry has been declared an essential service during the coronavirus pandemic. This means that all worksites are expected to continue as long as they are able to follow the health and safety requirements issued by the Provincial Health Officer. We anticipate these guidelines will be in place for up to one year.

Safety requirements include but are not limited to:

- *keeping a minimum six-foot distance from other people at all times*
- *hand washing regularly with soap and water throughout the day (hand sanitizer of a minimum 60% alcohol content as an alternative if necessary)*
- *staying home when sick*

Most employers in our industry have adapted their site policies, schedules, and protocols to accommodate these requirements, but it is difficult and not always consistent.

The Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP) is a premier workforce development program for BC's construction industry and has a role to play in ensuring the safety of all workers. The Regional Employment Placement Specialists (REPS) are expected to ensure the following program protocols are carried out:

PARTICIPANTS

- Review personal health and safety protocols with each participant prior to sending them on site
- Use the most up-to-date BCCSA and WorkSafeBC documents to provide this review (provided separately)
- Provide each participant with a link to the documents online, or a paper version if you're meeting in person
- Encourage each participant to communicate with you regarding any concerns they may have regarding sub-standard employer/site conditions, so that STEP may assist the employer in identifying the necessary improvements
- In the event that a site is not safe and the employer is not willing to make the needed improvements, support that worker to find placement elsewhere

EMPLOYERS

- Check that the site has visible hand-washing stations and COVID-19 protocols in place
- Ask the employer about their safety measures by asking what they would like you to communicate to the new hire or interviewees
- Ask the employer if there are any specific safety protocols unique to their site that should be communicated
- If needed, offer to review site safety protocols with the employer prior to placing a participant
- If needed, offer printed versions of WorkSafeBC and BCCSA site posters to the employer for use on site
- If the employer is dismissive of protocols, do not place the participant

STEP REPS

- Observe all PHO safety protocols, keeping social distance at all times and observing regular hand washing
- Work from home until we advise it is safe to return to the office
- Do not come to work if you are sick
- Wear a non-medical mask when social distancing is not guaranteed