

COVID-19: Support for workplaces resuming operation

WorkSafeBC recognizes the importance of getting British Columbians back to work with the appropriate measures in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

Employers in B.C. have an obligation under the *Workers Compensation Act* to ensure the health and safety of workers at their workplace and places where work is being done. With respect to COVID-19, this obligation includes protecting workers by following the orders of the [Provincial Health Officer](#) and guidance provided by the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

As employers prepare to resume operations, they will need to have a safety plan in place that assesses the risk of COVID-19 transmission in their workplace, and develops measures to reduce these risks.

This planning process should involve workers as much as possible to ensure their concerns are heard and addressed — this includes frontline workers, supervisors, Joint Health and Safety Committees, and/or worker representatives.

To assist employers in bringing workers back to work safely, WorkSafeBC is developing industry-specific protocols and procedures. These protocols will be developed following the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and using research and best practices from other jurisdictions.

WorkSafeBC is also supporting employers by providing industry-specific resources, including checklists, planning templates, education and training materials, signage, and other tools as required.

WorkSafeBC will be engaging employers and workers in returning industries through education, consultation, and workplace inspections to support them as they build their COVID-19 safety plan to return to partial or full operation and to disseminate resources, tools, and materials.

WorkSafeBC will not be reviewing/approving the safety plans of individual employers. However, employers will be expected to provide their plan during a WorkSafeBC inspection.

Workers and employers with questions or requiring additional assistance in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission at their workplace can call their Health and Safety Association or the Prevention Information Line at 1-888-621-7233 to speak directly with a prevention officer to receive advice and direction.

WorkSafeBC will continue to post and update information online at: worksafebc.com.