



## Who is this guidance for:

Any company engaged in construction projects in Marin County.

## Why is the guidance needed:

Construction work often involves close contact, which increases the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Many construction workers also live in close quarters and/or carpool to work sites, which further increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

## What the guidance says:

### Important Key Points

- **Ensure compliance:** It is the responsibility of the company in charge of a construction site to ensure compliance from all individuals who enter the site.
- **Report:** Immediately notify Marin County Public Health of any COVID-19 case by calling 415-473-2957 or emailing [Covid19results@marincounty.org](mailto:Covid19results@marincounty.org).
- **Protect confidentiality:** Do not release the COVID-positive person's name at work (unless they have given you permission).
- **Quarantine close contacts:** Determine which workers had close contact with the COVID-positive person and have them quarantine at home.
- **Monitor for symptoms:** All other workers who were at the construction site 48 hours before the COVID-positive person was sent home should monitor themselves for symptoms.
- **Disinfect the construction site:** Undertake thorough cleaning and disinfection measures including cleaning tools, equipment and vehicles.

## What is the guidance for the construction industry?

### Scope of Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the company in charge of the construction site to ensure compliance from ALL individuals entering the site, including but not limited to:

- Employees
- Day laborers
- Sub-contractors
- Supply and delivery drivers/workers
- Inspectors and other safety representatives
- Food trucks on site

### Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP)

All California employers are required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from all worksite hazards, including infectious diseases. As such, construction sites should ensure their workers are trained on:

- How COVID-19 is spread, **including how an infected person can spread COVID-19 to others even when they do not feel sick.**
- How to prevent COVID-19
- Symptoms of COVID-19 which include:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Prevention Requirements

- **Hand Washing and Other Hygiene Practices:** All sites should have adequate access to soap and water or FDA approved hand sanitizer:
  - Restrooms / porta potties should always be clean and sanitary.
  - Handwashing facilities should be located near the restrooms or porta potties, work areas, and break areas.
  - Soap and single use towels or FDA approved sanitizer must be made available at all times.
  - Encourage workers to **frequently wash their hands** for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- **Face Coverings:** All individuals entering the construction site must always wear face coverings while on the construction site.
  - Respirators are NOT recommended at this time unless needed protect against other work hazards.
- **Social Distancing:** To the extent possible, all individuals on the construction site should maintain a 6-foot distance from each other.
  - If a 6-foot distance is not possible due to work requirements, try to group close contact activities by groups of people who reside together or travel together.
- **Screening workers:** Before anyone enters the site **every day**, they should be screened for symptoms. Screening protocols should be posted at all entrances and exits of the worksite.
- **Post safety signage:** In an area visible to all workers and visitors, post public health and safety notices (the list of requirements can be found [here](#)).

### Safe Work Practices

- Change productivity expectations to allow extra time to wash hands.
- Establish procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces.
- Limit number of individuals riding in an elevator at one time.
- Ensure 6-foot distance when individuals line up for lunch truck and/or restrooms.
- Perform meetings and interviews via phone or online video conference.
- Identify “choke points” where workers are forced to stand close together and develop a plan to limit the number of people at any given time.
- Limit interaction with other contractors:
  - Specify drop-off locations and have procedures to maintain distance during deliveries.
  - Limit the number of trades/deliveries in the same area at the same time.
- Discourage sharing of tools.
  - If tools must be shared, try to group them to be used by groups of people who reside together or travel together.
  - Disinfect tools with an FDA approved disinfectant between individuals use and at the end of each work day.
- Avoid the use of fans, if possible. If fans are necessary for safe ventilation, ensure air does not blow from one person to the next.
- Discourage carpooling if possible unless workers are living together. If carpooling cannot be avoided, encourage riders to sit as far apart from each other as possible, wear face coverings in the car, and wash their hands immediately after the trip.
- Discourage hand shaking.

## Reporting Cases and Identifying Close Contacts

- **Reporting cases:** If any individual who was physically on the construction site tests positive for COVID-19, the company must immediately notify Marin County Public Health by calling 415-473-2957 or emailing [Covid19results@marincounty.org](mailto:Covid19results@marincounty.org).
- **Identify and Quarantine close contacts:** Determine close contacts of the COVID-positive person and have them quarantine at home. Close contacts should stay at home for 14 days from their last contact with the COVID-positive person.
  - *Close contacts are people who have been within 6 feet of the COVID-positive person for more than 15 minutes.* Marin County Public Health recommends COVID-19 testing for close contacts 5 – 7 days after their last contact with COVID-positive staff.
- **Educate staff:** Provide workers with a printed copy of [Home Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines \(Spanish\)](#).

## What is the guidance for individuals returning to work?

### For workers with no symptoms but a positive test

The worker should NOT return to work until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not had symptoms during that time.
- If they develop symptoms, see below guidance.

### For workers with COVID symptoms and a positive test

For symptomatic worker with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, the worker should NOT return to work until:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

## Where to get more information

- Detailed construction requirements can be found at:
  - [Marin Health Order Appendix B-1 for Small Construction Projects](#)
  - [Marin Health Order Appendix B-2 for Large Construction Projects](#)
- For the most up-to-date Coronavirus and COVID-19 information visit the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- What Construction Workers Need to Know about COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/construction-workers.html>
- For up-to-date Marin information visit the Marin County Coronavirus Information at <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/>

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