

Ari's Tip of the Week
SAFETY
Heavy Construction Contractors Association

Tool Box Talk for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19
English & Spanish

COVID-19 – A toolbox talk for construction workers

Purpose	COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease that can have severe effects on people, especially those who are vulnerable. The virus is likely to pass from person to person in communal areas and where it is not possible to maintain safe distances between persons. If a person is infected while working it can be passed on through families and other contacts. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.
Outline	This talk covers the ways to maintain your health while working on construction sites.

Getting to work

1. Wherever possible travel to site alone using your own transport (for example, a car or bicycle).
2. If you need to use public transport, try to avoid peak times: 05:45–7:30 and 16:00–17:30.
3. Wash your hands before and after using any form of transport.

On site

1. Wash your hands when you arrive on site, regularly throughout the day (especially if you sneeze or cough, and before and after eating or handling food, using any shared equipment or tools, and using toilet facilities), and again when you leave site.
2. You should follow social distancing guidelines whilst on site (for example, keep at least two metres away from other workers), unless you are working under specific activity risk assessment measures, which might allow for closer working.
3. Social distancing guidelines also apply during breaks and mealtimes.
4. Stay on site for your breaks. Do not use local shops. Bring your own meals and refillable drinking bottles. Do not share items (for example, cups). All rubbish should be disposed of in the bins provided.

Close working

Note: Close working should **only** be carried out under specific activity risk assessment. Before you start, consider whether there is any other way you can complete the activity in order to avoid close working and, if you have another solution, talk to your supervisor.

The following points should be reinforced, in addition to the site and activity specific control measures.

1. Work requiring skin-to-skin contact should not be carried out.
2. If you are using reusable PPE, it should only be used by you, and should be thoroughly cleaned after use.
3. You should dispose of single use PPE so that it cannot be reused.

Cleaning

If you are involved with the additional cleaning being carried out on site, it should focus on the following areas.

1. Access and egress points, gate handles and turnstiles.
2. Taps and washing facilities.
3. Toilet flush and seats.
4. Door handles and push plates.
5. Handrails on staircases and corridors.
6. Lift and hoist controls.
7. Machinery and equipment controls.
8. Food preparation and eating surfaces.
9. Seats, seating areas and locker room surfaces.
10. Telephone equipment, keyboards, photocopiers and other office equipment.

