

Work in Areas with People Suspected of or Quarantined for COVID-19

This task may only be performed by trained and authorized personnel.

Hazards Present:	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or Devices Required: <small>(CSA or ANSI Standards required as per regional legislation)</small>	Additional Training Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 Interaction with suspected / infected people Contamination of the work environment Psychological stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protective eyewear / face shield Protective gloves (nitrile) Protective mask (N95 or P100) or half mask respirator Protective clothing (Tyvek suit) 60-70% isopropyl alcohol wipes (i.e. Clorox Wipes) or water/bleach solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHMIS training Respirator Fit Testing and Training Prevention and contamination control Personal hygiene practices First aid training Aware of the evolving outbreak situation.

NOTE: Workers must be trained in a way that demonstrates they are competent. JUST READING a SWP is NOT training. Workers must demonstrate they can safely perform task and trainer/supervisor must follow up regularly to ensure workers are performing task in a safe manner. Document each occurrence in the employee’s training record.

NOTE: All procedures obtained from mySafetyAssistant™, operator manuals or other samples must have the consultation of workers and be thoroughly reviewed to ensure they are accurate for your workplace and your jobs!

 DANGER: Failure to follow this Safe Work Practice may result in SERIOUS INJURY or DEATH.

- Coronaviruses** are a large family of viruses that may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).
- COVID-19** is caused by a novel (new) coronavirus “SARS-CoV-2” that was first detected in China in December 2019. To date, it has been found in approximately 90 countries, including Canada. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold. Coronavirus typically originates from an infected animal and, in some cases, make the jump over to humans. The virus has not been found in drinking water; however, it has been detected in feces of some patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

3. **The COVID-19 is spread** from person to person through respiratory droplets. When a person sneezes, coughs, or exhales, they produce water droplets from the nose and mouth that contain the virus. The droplets then land on surrounding surfaces. People who touch infected surfaces can transmit the virus to themselves by subsequently touching their mouth, nose and eyes. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person who has coughed or breathed out droplets containing the virus. This is why its important to stay more than 1 metre away from someone that is sick.

- a. These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or the water.
- b. How long the virus survives on surfaces is not known. It is thought to be a few hours or up to several days.

4. HOW SERIOUS is COVID-19?

- a. **80% of patients will have mild symptoms and recover.**
- b. About 14% of cases will be more severe, including pneumonia and shortness of breath.
- c. About 5% will experience critical symptoms.
- d. In approx. 2-3% of cases the virus is fatal, more likely seen in older adults.

5. **Risk Exposure** - Jobs that require frequent and/or close contact with (i.e.: within 6 feet of) people who are or may be infected with COVID19 are considered medium risk. Jobs may include performing emergency repair work in a facility / area where people are quarantined.

6. All workers who may in the course of their work come into contact with people who are or may be infected with COVID-19 must:

- a. have job specific education
- b. be trained on preventing transmission
- c. ensure that psychological and behavioural support is available to address employee stress

7. Personal Protective Equipment

- a. Workers in medium risk environments must wear the following personal protective (PPE) equipment:
 - i. Protective eyewear / face shield
 - ii. Protective gloves (nitrile)
 - iii. Facepiece respirators with equal or higher protection than N95, such as N99 or N100. Use a 1/2mask air purifying respirator if N95 masks are not available.
 1. You must be clean shaven to don a respirator.
 - iv. Protective clothing (Tyvek suit recommended)



b. All PPE must be:

- i. selected based on the hazards involved in the work.
- ii. properly fitted (e.g. respirators)
- iii. removed, cleaned, stored or disposed of appropriately

c. Workers must be trained on the care, use, maintenance and limitations of their PPE.

8. General Safe Work Practices

- a. Avoid performing the work unless absolutely necessary.
- b. Perform a hazard assessment prior to performing the required task and evaluate the risk of exposure.
- c. Only the minimum essential number of workers should enter the space. Restrict all other un-necessary persons.
- d. Don all required personal protective equipment prior to entering the work area.
- e. Avoid contact with the quarantined person. Maintain social distancing parameters (2 meters or 6 feet away from an infected person). Ask the isolated person to move to a distant area of the room / work area as required.
- f. Do not touch any surfaces within the isolation area unnecessarily.
- g. Do not eat drink or smoke in the area.
- h. Avoid touching your eyes, face or nose.
- i. Complete assigned task and leave isolation area. Do not linger in the area.

9. Workplace Cleanup Procedures

- a. Remove personal protective equipment.
- b. Remove gloves by pulling from the top (at your wrist) down towards your fingers so that they are turned inside out when removed. Do not reuse gloves.
- c. Place soiled personal protective equipment, paper towels, gloves, and all other disposable materials into a properly labelled plastic bag and seal it. Dispose bag in regular garbage.
- d. Do not reuse an N95 respirator.
- e. **Disinfection procedures:**
 - i. Disinfectant must be used for cleanup.
 1. A commonly used disinfectant is household bleach solution, one part bleach to ten parts water (1:10 dilution). Other disinfectants such as Hydrox may be used.
 2. For decontamination of aluminum or electronic equipment, 70% isopropyl alcohol solution applied for 10 minutes should be used.
 3. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe use this or any cleaning product. Instructions will be on the label and/or on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
 4. Pour the bleach in to the water (not the other way around) and use in a well ventilated area.
 5. Never mix bleach with other products, especially those that contain ammonia.
 - a. See SWP for use of bleach
 - ii. Soiled Clothing should be placed in a plastic bag, removed and laundered. Pre --soak with disinfectant and launder with soap and water.
 - iii. Soiled PPE, Tools and Instruments
 1. PPE, tools and equipment etc. should be cleaned with paper towels, washed and decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant such as a 60-70% alcohol solution or bleach in a 1:10 solution.
- f. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 1 minute after exiting the work area. Remember that proper hand washing is the most important aspect of infection control.
- g. If you believe you were exposed to biohazard material that had not been decontaminated. Follow these steps: --Skin: wash the affected area with plenty of soap and water--Eyes: wash eyes for at least 10

minutes with plenty of water, lifting the upper and lower eyelids occasionally.--Seek medical attention immediately.

10. PREVENTION It should be stressed that the risk of severe COVID-19 infection is **LOW**. The odds of contracting this or any other virus for that matter can be reduced in a number of ways:

- a. Practice excellent hygiene frequently:
 - i. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday to yourself) or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
 - ii. Use the sleeve of your shirt or other material when touching handles and doors in public places.
 - iii. Maintain at least 1-2 metres (3-6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
 - iv. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
 - v. Avoid shaking hands. Substitute elbow or fist bumps.
 - vi. Use good respiratory hygiene
 1. If you cough or sneeze, cover it your mouth and nose with your sleeve in your bent elbow or use a Kleenex. Dispose of the Kleenex properly and wash your hands.
- b. Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.
- c. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- d. Disinfect surfaces regularly.
- e. Avoid travel to high-risk places and practice social distancing.



**In case of emergency or equipment malfunction:
Engage emergency stop and follow the incident reporting procedures.**

NOTICE: Report all hazardous situations to your supervisor without delay!

Guidance Documents / Standards / Applicable Legislation / Other	This Safe Work Practice will be reviewed any time the task, equipment, or materials change and at a minimum every three years.
<p>Guidance Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid guide Spill clean-up procedures Bleach Safe Work Procedure <p>CSA Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSA Z94.3-15 Eye and Face Protectors CSA Z94.4-11 Selection, Use and Care of Respirators 	<p>Completed / Approved by:</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <p>Date Completed:</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>

<p>Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 2.1.1 Safe Work Procedures Part 6.1-9 Personal Protective Equipment Part 8 Musculoskeletal Injuries Part 5.10 Contamination by Blood or Bodily Fluids Part 35 Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Part 36 Chemical and Biological Substances W210 Section 43 Right to Refuse Dangerous Work 	<p>Reviewed / Revised by:</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Date Reviewed:</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Disclaimer: Any references to legislation such as the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act or Regulation or Standards, Codes of Practices or Guidelines are for convenience sake only. The original text must be consulted for all intents and purposes of applying and interpreting the law.</i></p>
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This Safe Work Practice has had the consultation of the following workers:

Name	Signature	Position	Date