

# Risk Control

## COVID-19 CONTROL AND PREVENTION Construction Work

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OSHA issued a guidance document to protect construction workers from exposure to the COVID-19 virus. *COVID-19-Control and Prevention/Construction Work*, (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html>) lists engineering and administrative controls and safe work practices to deal with different exposure levels based on the type of work being done and the exposures inherent to the work. For example:

- **Lower** – tasks that allow for 6 feet of separation and minimal contact with the public, visitors and other.
- **Medium** – tasks that require working within 6 feet of others.
- **High** – entering indoor work areas occupied with people suspected of having or are known to have COVID-19. This category includes locations where an occupant of the site reports signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Very High** – other higher-risk categories.

Engineering controls are methods to prevent the airborne spread of the virus, such as physical barriers (closed doors and walls, plastic sheeting) and the use of approved PPE. Administrative controls include following procedures enacted by the CDC, OSHA and state/local governments, and employee screening. The guidance document also recommends determining the level of risk by calling ahead prior to starting indoor projects. Topics for employee training are included in the document. They include:

- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Reviewing related policies and procedures that relate to COVID-19
- Social distancing and hygiene
- Use of PPE
- Staying home if ill
- Using approved cleaning chemicals
- Reporting safety and health concerns

Safe work practices include screening visitors, adopting staggered work schedules, identifying ways to limit choke points and other areas where workers are forced to stand close together, coordinating deliveries, instituting a rigorous housecleaning program and keeping in-person meetings as short as possible.

This document can be helpful when developing worksite safety procedures to protect workers and visitors. Make sure that OSHA (and other regulatory agencies, such as the NYS Department of Buildings) have not changed or added to these recommendations.