

# Summary: COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidelines

## Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace

- Ontario is releasing safety guidelines to protect workers, customers and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a gradual reopening of the provincial economy. These resources are available for different sectors. They will help employers and workers better understand how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Sector guidelines contain recommendations and tips for employers on how to keep workers safe on the job. Posters for both employers and workers also offer advice on preventative actions, including physical distancing and workplace sanitation. Employers are encouraged to download the posters to print and post in the workplace.
- There are currently new [resources](#) related to:
  - [manufacturing sector](#)
  - [food manufacturing and processing sector](#)
  - [agriculture sector](#)
  - [construction sector](#)
  - [restaurant and food services sector](#)
  - long-term care sector (workplace posters only, no guidance note)
  - NOTE: As new sectors of the economy begin to reopen, additional COVID-19 workplace safety resources will be added.
- [Manufacturing health and safety during COVID-19](#): Find resources, best practices and information to help keep your workers safe and healthy, and your business in operation, during COVID-19.
  - [Overview](#)
  - [Best practices](#)
  - [Protecting yourself and your co-workers](#)
  - [Physical distancing \(two meters\)](#)
  - [Workplace sanitation](#)
  - [Adjust onsite and production schedules](#)
  - [Track your workforce](#)
  - [Reporting illness](#)
  - [Workers with COVID-19](#)
  - [Getting information on infection prevention and control](#)
  - [Share information](#)
  - [Post your policies](#)
  - [Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development reporting requirements](#)
  - [Resources](#)

### Posters about physical distancing best practices for your sector

The government is issuing posters to promote a variety of useful safety tips – these offer helpful advice on physical distancing and sanitation. The posters are downloadable from the [Ontario.ca website](#) so employers can print and post them in their workplaces.

<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Food Processing</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employers</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employees</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employers</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employees</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employers</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Poster for employees</a></li></ul>

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## Additional guidance and information for employers

### Your responsibilities

- If you find out a **worker has been exposed to COVID-19** at work, or a related claim has been filed with the WSIB, make sure to **notify the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development** and your workplace joint health and safety committee, health and safety representative and trade union, if you have them.

### Emergency leave due to COVID-19

- **Unpaid, job-protected infectious disease emergency leave** has been created. Workers can take this leave if they are not able to work due to COVID-19. Learn more about this [leave and the \*Employment Standards Act\*](#).

### Provincial labour inspectors

- 58 new inspectors will join the hundreds of existing **provincial labour inspectors**. The inspectors, which include workers from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT), will be tasked with **communicating COVID-19 safety guidelines to essential workplaces or enforcing emergency measures**, including physical distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses.

## Background:

- The Ontario government is ensuring employers have the safety guidelines they need to protect workers, customers, and the general public from COVID-19 as Ontario prepares for a gradual reopening of the economy.
- Government safety guidelines released on April 30, 2020 provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and agriculture.
  - These measures build on more [than 60 guidelines developed by Ontario's health and safety associations in response to COVID-19](#) for various sectors.
  - The government will work with Ontario's health and safety associations to bring forward additional workplace safety guidelines for more sectors in the coming days and weeks.
- These new sector-specific guidelines feature recommended actions employers can begin to plan for as they prepare to adapt to the new reality during COVID-19, including:
  - Ways to ensure physical distancing, like eliminating pay-at-the-door options, holding team meetings outdoors, staggering shifts and using ground markings and barriers to manage traffic flow.
  - Changes to the workplace, like installing plexiglass barriers, increasing the air intake on building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to increase air flow, and using boot sanitizing trays.
  - Promoting proper workplace sanitation, providing personal protective equipment, substituting dry dusting with vacuuming, ensuring customer-facing staff are given hand sanitizer, providing a place to dispose of sanitizing wipes, and enforcing handwashing before and after breaks.

## Key Resources:

- [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
  - [Manufacturing health and safety during COVID-19](#)
  - [Food manufacturing and processing health and safety during COVID-19](#)
  - [Agriculture health and safety during COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Support for businesses: Information and advice to help your business navigate the economy during COVID-19](#)
- [News Release: Ontario Providing Employers with Workplace Safety Guidelines](#)
- The 61 sector-specific guidelines are available [here](#) from Ontario's health and safety associations
- Learn more about the first phase of [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#)