

Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers (except hospitals/clinics) Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Choices

Work Conditions	Negligible Transmission Risk	Low Transmission Risk	Medium Transmission Risk	High Transmission Risk	Extremely High Risk
Health status of the people around you	Healthy/Asymptomatic (no COVID-19 symptoms)	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Probable or known COVID-19 human source
Examples of worksite conditions* , **	Employee working alone, or, all outside or 1-9 total persons inside building/structure with outside or HVAC air, where at least 6-foot distance is always maintained . Tools are not shared or are sanitized between different users.	Crews outside on large worksite where at least 6-foot distance is easily maintained full-time and only broken intermittently in passing up to several times a day. Tools are not shared or are sanitized between different users.	Large crews outside where at least 6-foot distance is mostly maintained but with job tasks that require several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day. Tools are shared and sanitized between different users.	Work consists of close quarters, such as multiple occupancy confined space work or inside room presence of more than 10 people where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained and includes job tasks requiring close together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour multiple times a day.	Transporting/caring for symptomatic clients with probable or active COVID-19 patient within 6 feet in vehicle; or non-hospital setting or a residence with no sanitization protocols in place.
	Worksite with controlled and low public interaction, where at least 6-foot distance always maintained and only broken in passing once or twice a day.	Work is inside in a structure/office where number present allows for at least 6-foot distance to be easily maintained full-time and only broken intermittently in passing up to several times a day.	Work is inside in a structure/office where at least 6-foot distance is mostly maintained but with job tasks that require several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day.	Work is cleaning and sanitization of surfaces and floor after known active COVID-19 infection employee was present in area.	

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Number of people and conditions in work vehicle	Vehicle operation: employees ride alone, and vehicles are sanitized between different drivers.	Vehicle with more than one occupant but can maintain 6-foot distance and only broken intermittently up to several times a day. Vehicles must be sanitized between different drivers and occupants.	Vehicle with more than one occupant but mostly maintain 6-foot distance with job tasks that require several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day. Vehicles must be sanitized between different drivers and occupants.	Vehicle with more than one occupant where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained and include job tasks requiring close together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour. Vehicles must be sanitized between different drivers and occupants.	Vehicle with more than one occupant where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained and include job tasks requiring close together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour at least once a day. Vehicles must be sanitized between different drivers and occupants.
Minimum required mask or respiratory protection for employees without additional engineering controls or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ***	None required unless and except under state or local ordered agreement.	None required unless and except under state or local ordered agreement.	Dust mask, foreign system non-NIOSH approved filtering facepiece respirator (such as KN95), or medical procedure masks.	Elastomeric ½ or full-face respirator with particulate filters **** --OR-- PAPR with particulate filter. (Tight fitting respirators must be fit-tested, and the wearer must be clean-shaven. No fit-testing is required for loose fitting systems.) --OR-- Industrial use N95, R95 or P95 or foreign system non-NIOSH approved filtering facepiece respirator (or other particulate respirator****)	FDA approved surgical mask or healthcare N95 filtering facepiece respirator**** or elastomeric respirator with particulate filters. Tight fitting respirators must be fit-tested and the wearer must be clean-shaven. PAPR with particulate filter may be used; no fit testing is required for loose fitting models. When feasible, client with COVID-19 should also wear an FDA approved surgical N95 or surgical mask.

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Recommended worksite protections	Cloth face covering that fully covers mouth and nose or higher protection, if more than one person present.	Cloth face covering that fully covers mouth and nose or higher protection.	Use multiple engineering and administrative controls together to reduce frequency and risk of touch and airborne transmission between people. Ask workers for suggestions on further improvements to controls.	Minimize number of workers present in high risk work tasks. Use multiple engineering and administrative controls together to reduce frequency and risk of touch and airborne transmission between people. Ask workers for suggestions on further improvements to controls and look for ways to accomplish the work without people in close proximity.	Add face-shield or eye goggles to half face disposable respirators and non-permeable disposable upper body coverings; Powered Air Purifying Respirator System, Elastomeric full-face respirators with particulate filters or higher protection.
Comment	Employees should be strongly encouraged not to carpool to and from work unless wearing facial covering or mask protection. This is suspected as a source of several national outbreaks.				

- * Social Distancing is at least 6 feet apart between employee to employee; or employee to any other person.
- ** Other respirators or PPE may be required due to other hazards such as chemical exposures or projectile exposures. The PPE ensemble must protect the worker from all hazards that are not otherwise controlled.
- *** Without additional engineering controls or PPE for employees like barriers or face shields or local ventilation. See current respiratory protection compliance guidance on the [NCDOL COVID-19 webpage](#) for the current guidance. This document is not intended to create additional requirements.
- **** Particulate filtering respirators are rated by NIOSH for oil mist resistance (N, R, or P) and filtering efficiency (95, 99, and 100). An N-95 respirator is the least resistant to oil mists and lowest filter efficiency. For protection from the COVID-19 virus, an N-95 rated respirator is enough, and any other particulate respirator can be substituted. Foreign certified respirators below may be used. References listed below for each country represent the respirator certification/approval standard of that country, not the type of respirator. For example, GB 2626 (2006 & 2019) are the respirator certification standards from China under which the KN 95 respirators are approved, not a type or designation of respirator.
 - Australia: AS/NZS 1716:2012
 - Brazil: ABNT/NBR 13694:1996; ABNT/NBR 13697:1996; and ABNT/NBR 13698:2011
 - People's Republic of China: GB 2626-2006; and GB 2626-2019
 - European Union: EN 140-1999; EN 143-2000; and EN 149-2001
 - Japan: JMHLW-2000
 - Republic of Korea: KMOEL-2014-46; and KMOEL-2017-64
 - Mexico: NOM-116-2009