



COVID-19

Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers and Patrons

City of New Orleans

May 12th, 2020

All businesses, including those already open (except for healthcare workers, first responders and others already trained in infection control, person protection/universal precautions), should complete this training on mandatory health and safety requirements, or another training program that meets or exceeds this training before May 16, 2020 or the time they choose to reopen. All employers are should provide the information in the training to all employees.



What is Novel Coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause illness in animals and people. Many coronaviruses cause common colds, but others can cause significant health threats.
- SARS-CoV-2 is the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and is believed to have jumped species from animals to people in Wuhan, China.
- COVID-19 is a respiratory disease spread from person to person. It is a new and distinct coronavirus. No one in the world had been exposed to this coronavirus or had immunity to it before winter 2019.

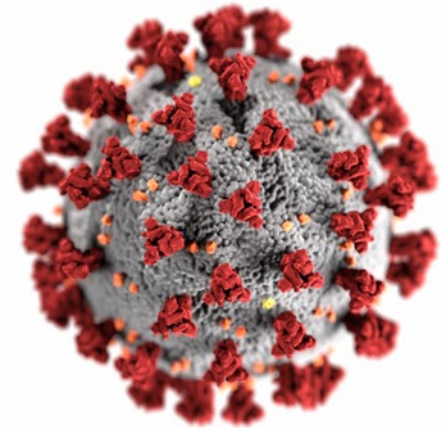


Illustration: CDC / Alissa Eckert & Dan Higgins



How does COVID-19 spread?

- The virus is thought to spread mainly person-to-person.
- The virus spreads by droplets made when people with COVID-19 cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby or inhaled into their lungs.
- People who are infected may feel sick, but sometimes do not have symptoms of illness. People without symptoms are still able to spread the virus.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

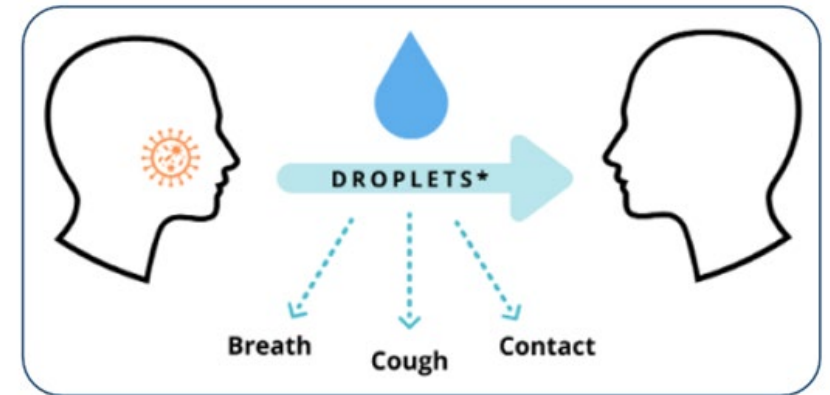


Illustration: Washington State Fusion Center



Signs and Symptoms of Infection

- Not everyone infected with the COVID-19 virus has symptoms. Symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness. The symptoms may start 2 – 14 days after exposure to the virus.
- Symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell
 - People may experience some but not all of these symptoms
- Your healthcare provider can determine if you should be tested for COVID-19 based on any symptoms you might have, and the severity of them.
 - Testing is available at most healthcare provider locations and there are community based testing site available in New Orleans. Visit ready.nola.gov for information on community based testing.



Existing OSHA standards protect workers

- Employers should follow existing OSHA standards to help protect workers from exposures to SARS-CoV-2 and infection with COVID-19.
- Employers should also remember that OSHA can use the General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1), of the Occupational Safety and Health Act to ensure that workers are protected from recognized safety and health hazards that may cause serious harm.

Relevant OSHA Requirements

- Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910 subpart I), including:
 - PPE General Requirements (1910.132)
 - Eye and Face Protection (1910.133)
 - Respiratory Protection (1910.134)
 - Hand Protection (29 CFR 1910.138)
- Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030)
- Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)
- Recordkeeping (29 CFR part 1904)



Sectors with Exposure Risk

Very High

- Healthcare workers performing or present for aerosol-generating procedures, laboratory personnel handling COVID-19 specimens, morgue and death care workers

High

- Healthcare workers, medical transport personnel

Medium

- Jobs that require regular interaction with the public including transit and retail workers

Low

- Jobs that do not require regular interaction with the public such as employees that work in office buildings with limited interactions

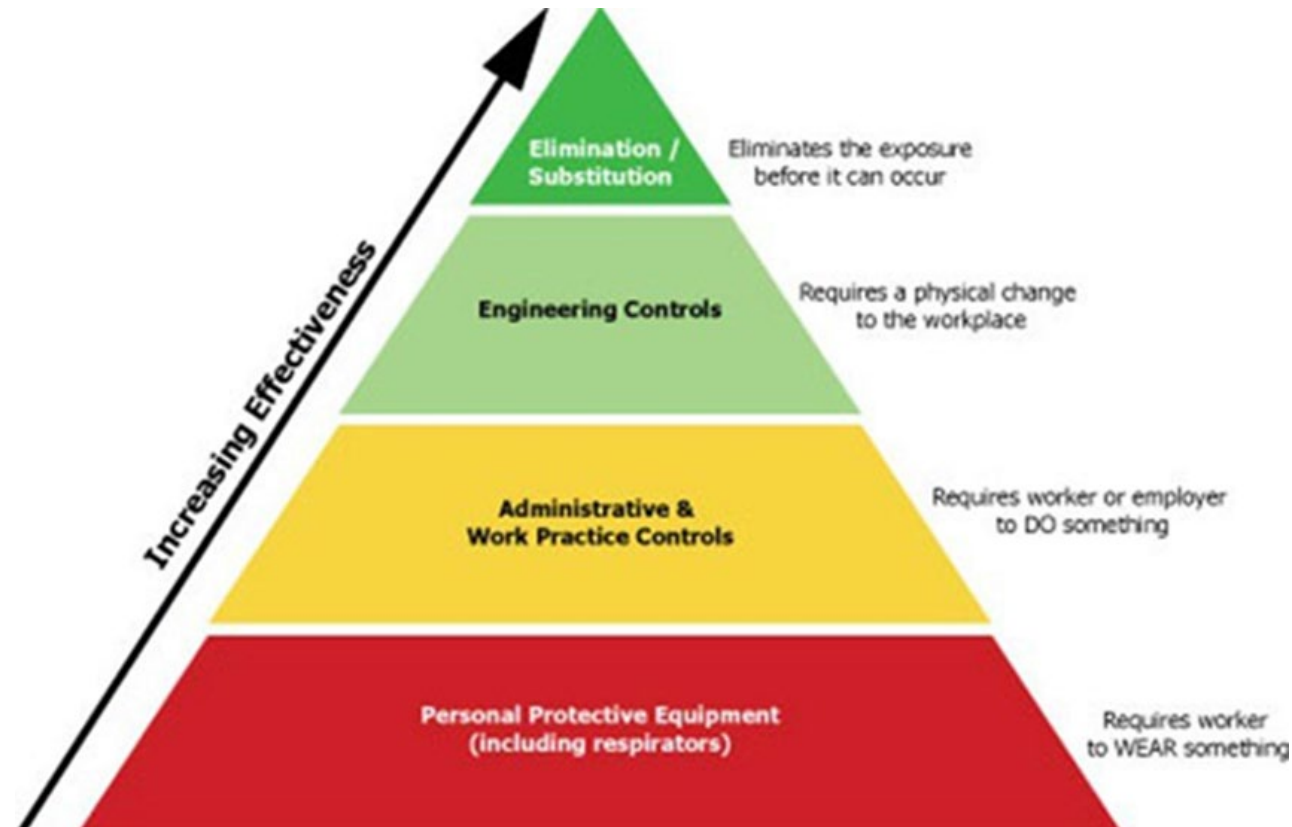




Guidance for Employers

Have a Plan

- Start with assessing the hazards in your workplace
- Just as in all other hazards, the "hierarchy of controls" is an important concept



Eliminate Opportunities for Exposure

- Tasks should be evaluated for the possibility of working remotely.
- Meetings/conferences and trainings should be done via the internet/virtually.
- Client/patient services should be done via the internet/virtually.
- Employee-to-employee contact should be eliminated by spreading out workstations.
- Employees should be encouraged to stay home if they feel ill. Paid sick leave is the most effective way to keep ill employees home without endangering other workers or customers.
- If feasible, temperature testing employees should be done.



Make Physical Changes to the Workplace

- Consider physical barriers to prevent spread:
 - i.e. workstation barriers
 - i.e. sneeze guards for cashiers
- Isolation of tasks should be considered where possible.
- Ventilation patterns and air change rates can assist in lessening contamination.



Change How You Work

- Work Practice Controls can be very effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Understand the basic principles of prevention:
 - Social distancing: social distancing is when people are able to maintain at least 6 feet apart
 - Personal cleanliness: hand washing facilities and hand sanitizing must be readily available and their use must be encouraged
 - Work surface cleanliness: Employers should implement protocols for regularly cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces in the work environment
 - Wipe down surfaces such as door push bars, handles, shopping carts, points of sale machines, chairs in waiting areas, and other areas that customers, visitors, and workers frequently touch



Train Employees

- Train all workers about their risk of occupational exposure to COVID-19 as well as on what to do if they have been exposed to possible cases.
- For workers at high risk of exposure (e.g. in healthcare sectors), discuss:
 - Sources of exposure to the virus and hazards associated with that exposure
 - Appropriate ways to prevent or reduce the likelihood of exposure, including use of engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE.
 - Some OSHA standards (e.g. BBP, PPE) require worker training.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Make sure there is a good understanding of what is and what is not considered PPE
- Make sure there is a good understanding of what PPE is appropriate for each task
- Make sure there is a good understanding of how to put on and take off PPE properly

[Watch the New Orleans Health Department video on how to properly wear face coverings](#)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

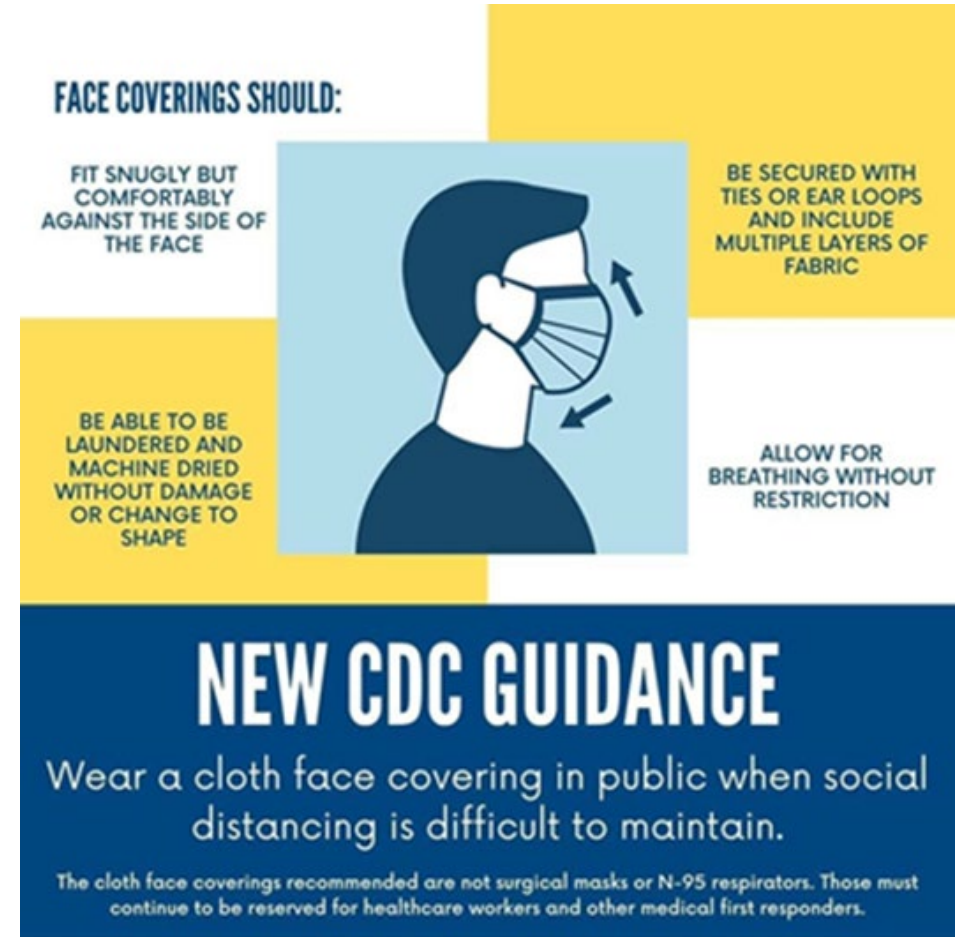
Things that are PPE:

- **Gloves:** various gloves protect against varying hazards, most commonly, medical grade nitril or latex gloves are used to protect against pathogens. Gloves should be changed or washed regularly. People should not touch their face while wearing gloves.
- **Body Protection:** most often varying forms of protective suites are worn to protect from pathogenic hazards. In the case of facilities with direct contact with known or suspected COVID-19 infectious subjects. Tyvek, full body suits can be worn. However, to be impervious to the maximum of the design, all seams should be seamless.
- **Eye/face Protection:** eye protection should also be worn for those involved with direct contact with known or suspected COVID-19 infectious subjects. Eye protection should provide side protection at the least. Face shields make excellent protection, especially when used in conjunction with eye protection
- **Masks:** masks and respirators should be used in medical settings with known or suspected COVID-19 infectious subjects. Face coverings made from fabric are appropriate for non-healthcare settings.



Masks and Face Coverings

- Masks are an important tool in protection from the spread of COVID-19 virus. The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings.
- Employees must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth in the presence of others.
- In the case of retail cashiers, a translucent "sneeze guard" is strongly recommended.
- Medical and surgical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers.



Visit sewdat.com for information on how to make or purchase face coverings



For documents and updates

- Visit OSHA's website at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>
- Visit CDC COVID-19 website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Visit the Louisiana Department of Health website at <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>
- Visit the City of New Orleans' website at <https://ready.nola.gov/home/>

