

# OHS/ES eNews

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, you will receive special editions of eNews with the latest developments in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Employment Standards (ES).

## COVID-19: a workplace health and safety concern

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that can be spread either directly or indirectly.

- Direct infection can happen if:
  - Someone coughs or sneezes on you.
  - You shake hands with someone who is sick and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Indirect spread can happen from contaminated surfaces, tissues, cloth or paper.

The OHS Resource Portal now has a [COVID-19 coronavirus](#) section with bulletins related to minimizing risk from respiratory viruses.

## OHS inspections and response to incidents, complaints

During the COVID-19 pandemic, OHS officers will respond to work sites for serious incidents, fatalities and immediate danger conditions. During the pandemic:

- Health care, seniors care facilities and other essential services are the priority for inspections.
- All other proactive programs will be paused until further notice.

Officers will:

- use social distancing and all other required control measures when attending work sites
- respond to complaints using alternative methods such as phone or video conference with work site parties
- follow up at a later date to confirm the conditions at the work site
- provide educational materials and direct employers and workers to resources that will support compliance with COVID-19 requirements
- continue to write orders where non-compliance has occurred

### Contact OHS

1-866-415-8690 (toll-free)

780-415-8690 (Edmonton)

TTY: 1-800-232-7215

TTY: 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

[Report a serious incident](#)

[Online incident reporting service](#)

### Contact ES

1-877-427-3731 (toll-free)

780-427-3731 (Edmonton)

[Ask an Employment Standards question](#)

## COVID-19 information

Employers, supervisors and workers can visit [Guidance for workplaces](#), [Supports for businesses](#) and [Restrictions on businesses](#) for up-to-date information.

- [COVID-19 Chief Medical Officer health care PPE guidelines](#)
- [Essential services](#)
- [Guidance for managers and operators of industrial work camps](#)
- [Non-healthcare workplace guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Working from home during a pandemic](#)

## Health and safety associations

Alberta Motor Transport Association

- [Federal safety guidance to protect drivers and limit the spread of COVID-19 in commercial vehicles](#)

Energy Safety Canada

- [COVID-19 update](#)

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## Workers' Compensation Board-Alberta (WCB)

If you have questions about COVID-19 and WCB, their [COVID-19 web page](#) is updated regularly with information about any temporary changes to their programs and services and what that means for workers and employers.

Employers can receive timely updates regarding WCB business information through WCB's digital newsletter, *Worksight* magazine. To receive a monthly copy by email, [subscribe to Worksight](#). You can also view recently published editions on WCB's [website](#).

## Stay informed

Employers, supervisors and workers must follow advice given by public health officials. The following links are current as of the date of this eNews publication.

- Alberta Health – [COVID-19 coronavirus info for Albertans](#)
- Alberta Health Services – [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada – [Corona virus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

## Mental health at work

Canadian Mental Health Association: Alberta Division

- [COVID-19 outbreak: Protecting your mental health](#)

Government of Canada

- [COVID-19 and mental health @ work](#)

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If in doubt with respect to any information contained within this material, or for confirmation of legal requirements, please refer to the current edition of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* and *Occupational Health and Safety Code*, *Public Health Act* Order, or other applicable legislation. Further, if there is any inconsistency or conflict between any of the information contained in this material and the applicable legislative/*Public Health Act* Order requirement, the legislative/*Public Health Act* Order requirement shall prevail.

This material is current to April 17, 2020. The information, law, requirements, and policies are constantly changing during this unprecedented global pandemic. It is important that you keep yourself informed of the current requirements.

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## Quick links

- [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)
- [Alberta OHS legislation](#)
- [Employment Standards](#)
- [Partnerships in Injury Reduction](#)
- [Alberta Queen's Printer](#)

## Certificate of Recognition (COR)

Alberta Labour and Immigration, certifying partners and the WCB have made significant temporary changes to the COR program. This will help Alberta employers maintain their CORs and auditors maintain auditor certification status during the pandemic. For more information contact your [certifying partner](#).

## Other resources

Alberta Construction Association

- [Pandemic planning for the construction industry – a guide](#)

Alberta Liquor Store Association

- [Common COVID-19 safety measure you can implement in-store](#)

Building Industry Land Development

- [Tips for operating worksites during COVID-19](#)

Concrete Alberta

- [Best practices for delivering concrete during COVID-19](#)

Concrete Canada

- [COVID-19 best practice health and safety guidelines for employees in the cement and concrete industry](#)

Retail Council of Canada

- [COVID-19 resources for retailers](#)

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