Managing COVID-19 Transmission Risk to Construction Workers

For Employers:

- Decide if particular activities need to continue for the business to operate where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed.
- Practice social distancing in the workplace; limit the number of passengers in the business vehicles (include leaving seats empty).
- Use screens in transport equipment to reduce the contact of drivers and passengers and mandate wearing of masks within the vehicles.
- Encourage workers to stay home if ill and to report safety/health concerns.

Practice Proper Hand Hygiene and Cleaning Protocols

- Encourage respiratory etiquette: covering coughs and sneezes.
- Provide hand cleaning facilities at entrances and exits points. If workers do not have access to soap and water, provide alcohol-based hand rubs (65 - 70 % alcohol).
- Display signs to promote personal hygiene and proper hand washing techniques.
- Disinfect frequently-touched items, e.g. door pulls/handles and toilet seats.

Working On-site and Off-site

- Stagger arrival and departure times to reduce crowding into and out of the workplace.
- Perform temperature checks on all personnel entering the job site.
- Reduce job and equipment rotation, i.e. maintaining single tasks for the day.
- Personnel who can work remotely, e.g. architects and designers, should be encouraged to use appropriate remote working tools.
- Maintain social distancing: use floor signage, modify seating and tables and reduce face-to-face interactions.
- Monitor the wellbeing of workers who are working from home and help them to stay connected to those operating on site.
Managing customers and visitors on the construction site

- Limit the number of visitors on the construction site at any particular time.
- Carefully schedule visits to reduce interaction between people.
- Encourage visitors to use hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities as they enter the site.
- Display signs at the entrances of the worksite to remind persons to maintain social distancing.

In-bound and out-bound goods

- Revise pick-up and drop-off collection points, procedures, etc.
- Minimize unnecessary contact at the security, yard and warehouse.
- Encourage drivers to stay in their vehicles when necessary.

Communication and training

- Use existing communication routes to provide up-to-date information to workers on new work procedures.
- Use simple, clear messaging and signs to explain guidelines.
- Communicate approaches and operational procedures regularly to suppliers, customers, etc.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and facial masks

- Continue to use other normal control measures, including PPE.
- Train workers on how to properly put on, use/wear, and takeoff protective clothing and equipment.
- Ensure that workers wear masks over their nose and mouth.

References:

The full document on Guidance for COVID-19 and the Construction Sector - June, 2020 can be accessed here.