

MARCH 31, 2020

COVID-19 | GUIDANCE TO EMPLOYERS PERFORMING WORK IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES

The current public health emergency has created challenges for those individuals who may be required to carry out **emergency/life safety maintenance or repair work** in private residences.

The following is not intended to fit every possible scenario and employers are required to conduct a risk assessment to identify and control any potential hazards to which workers might be exposed.

For information on proper cleaning and disinfecting, see the BCCSA enhanced surface cleaning and disinfecting guidance.

Client screening questions

Prior to accepting work, the client must respond to the following questions:

1. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the past 10 days (coughing, sneezing, sore throat, fever, difficulty breathing)?
2. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
3. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
4. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been tested for COVID-19 and/or are waiting to hear the results of a laboratory test for COVID-19?
5. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the past 14 days?
6. Have you, or anyone else in the residence, been advised by a medical professional to self-isolate for any other reason?

Where the client answers **"NO"** to all of the questions above and physical distancing can be maintained, **follow Scenario 1.**

Where the client answers **"NO"** to all of the questions above but physical distancing with the client cannot be maintained, **follow Scenario 2.**

If the client answers **"YES"** to any of the above questions, and the work is not considered emergency or essential, the work should be scheduled for a time when the household is no longer under self-isolation.

Where the client answers **"YES"** to any of the questions **follow Scenario 2.**

Where the client refuses to answer the questions, treat the situation as though they responded **"Yes"** and **follow Scenario 2.**

Scenario 1

Where the client answers **“NO”** to all of the client pre-screening questions:

1. Advise the client of the “Physical Distancing Requirements”. They must maintain at least 2 metres from workers at all times. This also applies to any pets in the household. Pets should be restricted to another area of the home.
2. Maintain proper physical distancing while providing services (a distance of two arm’s lengths from others). Where this cannot be maintained, additional controls will be required (follow Scenario 2).
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
4. Avoid touching your face.
5. Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette.
6. Clean and disinfect any work surface (i.e. plumbing, hot water tank, toilet etc.), prior to performing work (see BCCSA guidance document on cleaning and disinfecting).
7. Upon exiting the property, wash/sanitize your hands and disinfect any tools that were used.

Scenario 2

Where the client answers **“YES”** to any of the questions ; or where the client answered **“NO”** to all of the questions above, but physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained.

1. Advise client of “Physical Distancing Requirements”. They must maintain at least 2 metres from workers whenever possible. This also applies to any pets in the household. Pets should be restricted to another area of the home.
2. Plan your job. Ensure that you have all tools necessary to perform the task prior to entering the residence.
3. Workers must don the following **prior to** entering the residence:
 - a) Clean latex or nitrile gloves.
 - b) Reusable fabric coveralls (Tyvek suits should be retained for health care workers).
 - c) Respiratory protection:
 - i. NIOSH approved white N95/N100 P95/P100 Respirators; or
 - ii. NIOSH approved half/full face respirator with approved cartridges N95/N100/P95/P100.
 - iii. Half or full faced respirators are preferable because they are more protective than disposable respirators and because disposable respirators should be retained for health-care workers.
 - d) CSA approved safety glasses or goggles where full face mask is not being used.
4. Disinfect all work areas with an appropriate disinfectant (see BCCSA guidance document on cleaning and disinfecting). Consult with product SDS to confirm that it is not incompatible with any materials or products to be used during the work process.

5. Change gloves when they become damaged or excessively soiled.
6. Perform work.
7. **Exit residence :**
 - a) Remove all potentially contaminated clothing (gloves/mask), place in a garbage bag, seal.
 - b) Remove coveralls and place in a garbage bag and seal. Coveralls cannot be used at additional job sites that day. At the end of the day the coveralls must be laundered with hot water and detergent. If coveralls are not available, change clothes immediately upon leaving the jobsite and follow the same bagging and laundry procedures.
 - c) Using clean gloves, clean and disinfect:
 - i. Any tools or equipment utilized during the course of work (i.e. kneel pad, ladders, hand tools).
 - ii. Reusable PPE (i.e. safety glasses, face shield, half or full face mask etc.).
 - iii. Outside of garbage bag.
 - d) Using clean gloves, transport and dispose of the garbage bag. Do not allow the bag to come in contact with your person while transporting.
8. Disinfect any areas of the service vehicle that might have been exposed (i.e. worker returned to obtain tools from vehicle). Where possible utilize a helper/runner who may be able to obtain tools and drop them at the front door.
9. Dispose of gloves and wash/sanitize your hands.