

# COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for California Contractors

Last Updated: March 23, 2020



## What is COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with [MERS-CoV\(link is external\)](#), [SARS-CoV\(link is external\)](#), and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2). The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in China and some limited person-to-person transmission has been reported in countries outside China, including the United States. However, respiratory illnesses like seasonal flu, are currently widespread in many US communities.

## Symptoms of COVID-19

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure\*:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

\*This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of [MERS\(link is external\)](#)-CoV viruses.

Call your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an area with [widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19\(link is external\)](#).

## What Should Employers Do?

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging businesses to begin preparations for the spread of the Coronavirus in the United States. In order to assist you in these preparations, you are encouraged to take the following steps:

- **Educate your employees**
  - [Use AGC of California's COVID-19 Toolbox Talk](#)
  - [What You Need to Know About the Coronavirus\(link is external\)](#)
  - [What To Do When You Are Sick\(link is external\)](#)
  - Hygiene and health is key - Practicing standard sanitation and hygiene regimens is a top priority.
    - Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water [Hand Washing Guidance\(link is external\)](#).
    - Hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol content, is a secondary option.
    - Remind everyone to keep noses and mouths covered when coughing or sneezing [Coughing and Sneezing Etiquette\(link is external\)](#).
    - Avoid touching in and around the eyes, with unwashed hands.
    - Everyone who has not yet had a flu shot should get one as soon as possible.
- **Follow the CDC recommendations for employers:**
  - Employer Guidance: [PREPARE NOW\(link is external\)](#).

## Additional Safety Resources

For questions, please contact AGC of California's Safety & Health Council liaison, Kate Mergen  
mergenk@agc-ca.org | 714-497-6163

Please visit [CDC.gov](#) for more information about the flu and coronavirus.

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- Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette, and hand hygiene by all employees.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Update your absenteeism policy and communicate the requirements.
- Update your work from home policy and communicate the requirements.
- **Planning Considerations**
  - Prepare for increased absenteeism
    - Cross train employees to handle other functions
    - Encourage employees to develop contingency plans for childcare in the event there are long term closures of schools and day care centers
  - Prepare for business interruption
    - Identify alternative suppliers
    - Prioritize certain customers
    - Prepare to shut down certain functions

## Additional Resources

- [AGC of California COVID-19 Resources Page](#)
- [AGC of California Toolbox Talk on COVID-19](#)
- Milwaukee Tool: [Cleaning of Tools to Help Prevent Spread of COVID-19](#)
- Smith, Currie & Hancock LLP:
  - [The DOL Provides Answers and Guidance to Employers regarding COVID-19](#)
  - [SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans in Response to COVID-19](#)
  - [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act: What Every Employer Should Know](#)
- Fisher Phillips: [Comprehensive And Updated FAQs For Employers On The COVID-19 Coronavirus\(link is external\)](#)
- SBA: [Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources\(link is external\)](#)
- Construction Contract: [Sample Notice of Delay Letter](#), [Guidance on Construction Terms\(link is external\)](#)
- EEOC: [What You Should Know About the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and COVID-19\(link is external\)](#)
- EEOC: [Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and Americans with Disabilities Act\(link is external\)](#)
- CDC Website [English\(link is external\)](#) | [Spanish\(link is external\)](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers\(link is external\)](#)
- CDC: [Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses\(link is external\)](#)
- CDC: [Print Resources\(link is external\)](#) (Available in Multiple Languages)
- DOL: [COVID-19 Resources\(link is external\)](#)
- DOL: [Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus\(link is external\)](#)
- DOL: [OSHA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19\(link is external\)](#)
- WHO: [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak\(link is external\)](#)
- WHO: [Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19\(link is external\)](#)
- CISA: [Risk Management for COVID-19\(link is external\)](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19\(link is external\)](#)
- CDC: [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations–Community Facilities\(link is external\)](#)

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