

Office / Job Site Closures

ISSUE:

Members are asking: “Should I close my office or jobsite?”



ANSWER:

According to the Government of Saskatchewan the risk in Saskatchewan remains LOW (current as of March 18). **Saskatchewan public health does not recommend business closure at this time.**

All employees should use best practices to prevent transmission including washing their hands, practicing good cough and sneeze hygiene, and staying home when they are sick. If they have recently returned from traveling internationally, they need to self-isolate at home for 14 days after returning to Canada. If they develop symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) they should call their physician or HealthLine 811.

ADVICE:

Ok, so the official word is that the risk is low, and you don't need to close your business. Keep an eye on www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus daily, in case that direction changes.

While you don't need to close, you may want to consider options to modify your work and that of your people.

First, if you have team members that are able to work from home, doing so is a sensible precaution. It helps secure business continuity for you in case of a wider spread, it provides those workers with peace of mind, and it supports social distancing which is an important prevention strategy.

You may want to look at how you can manage your schedules differently. This is particularly important on job site where you will be coordinating your schedule with other contractors. Do what you can to minimize unnecessary physical proximity and interaction between people. Look at staggering breaks so that people don't congregate in one place at one time.

You could look at changing your protocols to prevent the sharing of tools, equipment, workstations and to require the cleaning of these between uses.

Consider how you can use technology to your advantage to minimize interactions.

Keep your teams informed about the current situation on an ongoing basis. Communicating honestly and regularly will help alleviate a lot of fear – something we're all feeling right now. Make sure to model appropriate social distancing (2 metres is recommended between people) during all interactions.

Mark Cooper, Task Force Chair

E: president@scaonline.ca
P: 306-527-6854



COVID-19 Task Force

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COVID-19
TASK FORCE

Keep in mind that any worker in Saskatchewan has the right to refuse work if they have reasonable grounds to believe it is dangerous to them or others. As an employer, you can minimize the likelihood of this happening by following the advice in this bulletin:

- Check government sources for the most up-to-date advice and guidance;
- Model full compliance with the recommendations from public health to limit spread, and enforce compliance with your team;
- Take whatever actions you can (schedules, technology, limiting tool sharing, etc.) to support social distancing and transmission prevention; and
- Keep everyone fully informed of the current risk levels and how you are working to keep them safe.

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Mark Cooper at president@scaonline.ca or call (306) 527-6854.

Thank you to the expert Industry Task Force that provided advice and suggestions that populate the Advice section of this bulletin. Stay tuned for more information from the Task Force, which you will be able to access at www.scaonline.ca.

Mark Cooper, Task Force Chair

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