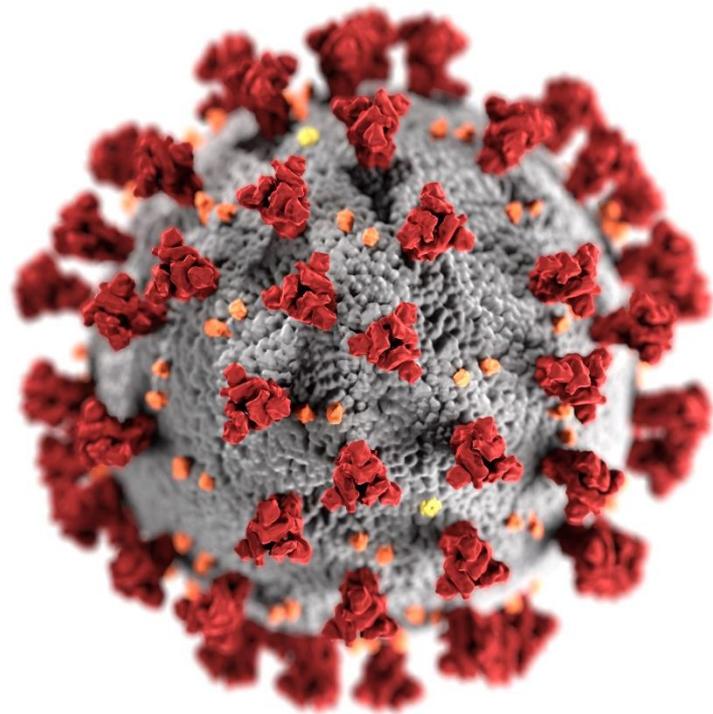


Protecting the Oil & Gas Workforce during COVID-19

NIOSH Team
Douglas Trout
Kyla Retzer

September 15, 2020



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Disclaimer

- For full guidance and information, please consult the:
CDC Interim Guidance for Business and Employers Responding to COVID-19
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- The information in this presentation is current as of September 3, 2020



Overview of Presentation

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - Symptom Screening
 - COVID-19 and Influenza
 - Testing
 - Return to Work Issues
- What oil and gas workers need to know about COVID-19
- COVID-19 Employer information for oil and gas workers



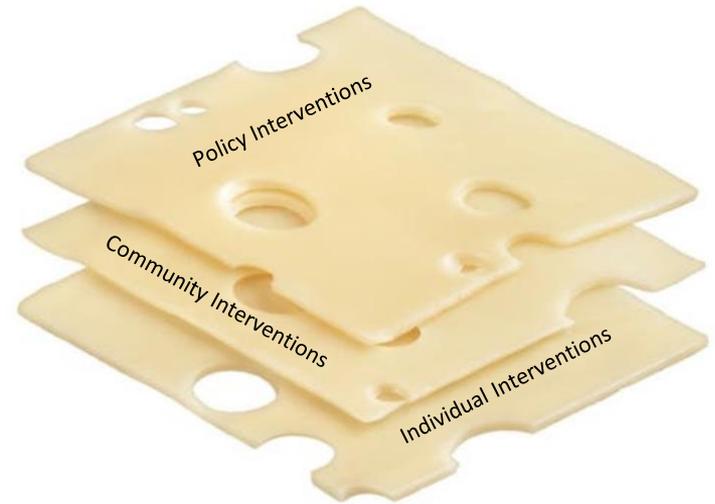
Preventing COVID-19 Within the Workplace

- Employers can take the following action steps to prepare for possible cases in the workplace:
 - Create a [COVID-19 preparedness, response, and control plan](#)
 - Identify where and how workers might be exposed to COVID-19 at work through a [hazard assessment](#)
 - Evaluate and institute control measures, according to the [hierarchy of controls](#) to protect employees and members of the general public
 - Identify a coordinator to oversee COVID-19 activities
 - Become familiar with local health department resources
 - Review CDC's [case investigation](#) and [contact tracing](#) guidance
 - Educate employees about prevention measures, and encourage them to collaborate with the health department



Layering Best Practices to Prevent COVID-19

- Best when best practices are stacked
 - Sometimes you have a few interventions (slices of Swiss cheese)
 - None are perfect (the holes)
 - If the slices are stacked, the holes can be covered
 - Layering imperfect interventions can slow down spread



Screening for COVID-19 in the Workplace



COVID-19 Screening: Considerations

- Screening employees for fever and other symptoms is an optional strategy
- Prior to implementing screening, ensure that sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of and understand these policies
- Screening is not a replacement for other protective measures such as social distancing



COVID-19 Screening: Self-screening

- Consider encouraging individuals planning to enter the workplace to self-screen prior to coming onsite and to stay at home if any of the following are present:
 - Symptoms of COVID-19,
 - Fever $> 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}^*$,
 - Are under evaluation for COVID-19 (for example, with recent pending test), or
 - Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet recommended to discontinue isolation



*A lower temperature threshold (e.g., 100.0°F) may be used, especially in healthcare settings.

COVID-19 Screening: Asking about Symptoms

- Consider screening at the workplace
- Although there are many different [symptoms](#) that may be associated with COVID-19, you may not want to treat every employee with a single non-specific symptom (e.g., a headache) as a suspect case of COVID-19
- Consider focusing the screening questions on “new” or “unexpected” symptoms (e.g., a chronic cough would not be a positive screen)



COVID-19 Screening: In-person Screening

- If implementing in-person health checks, conduct them **safely and respectfully**
- Maintain **social distancing** guidelines
- Follow guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding **confidentiality of medical records** from health checks
- To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, make employee health screenings **as private as possible**



Similarities and Differences Between Flu and COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>

- COVID-19 and flu share a number of symptoms, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone
- Both COVID-19 and flu can have varying degrees of signs and symptoms, ranging from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms. COVID-19 may include change in or loss of taste or smell.
- COVID-19
 - Possible for people to spread the virus for about 2 days before experiencing signs or symptoms and remain contagious for at least 10 days after signs or symptoms first appeared

Testing



COVID-19 Testing

- Viral tests for COVID-19
 - Tell you if you have a current infection
 - Include those that detect COVID-19 nucleic acid or antigen
- Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19
 - Most people have [mild illness](#) and can [recover at home](#) without medical care
 - CDC has [guidance](#) for who should be tested; decisions about testing are usually made by [state](#) and [local](#) health departments or employees in conversation with their healthcare providers



CDC testing kit



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2

Updated Aug. 29, 2020

[Print](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>



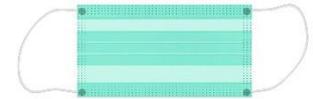
Categories (Purposes) of Testing for COVID-19

- **Diagnostic Testing**
 - Identify current infection in individuals
- **Screening Testing**
 - Identify infected persons who are asymptomatic and without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2
 - Identify persons who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission
- **Surveillance Testing**
 - Not for individuals
 - Monitor for a community- or population-level infection and disease, or to characterize the incidence and prevalence of disease



COVID-19: Rationale for Testing Asymptomatic People

- SARS-CoV-2 is very contagious due to high level of shedding in the upper respiratory tract through coughs and sneezes
- Pre-symptomatic people are infectious 1 to 3 days *before* symptom onset
 - Up to 40 to 50% of cases may be attributable to transmission from asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people



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COVID-19 Testing

COMMUNITY, WORK & SCHOOL

SARS-CoV-2 Testing Strategy: Considerations for Non-Healthcare Workplaces

Updated July 22, 2020

Languages ▾

Print



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/testing-non-healthcare-workplaces.html>



Viral Testing in Non-Healthcare Workplaces

Categories for SARS-CoV-2 testing with [viral tests](#):

- Testing [individuals with signs or symptoms](#) consistent with COVID-19
 - Testing [asymptomatic individuals](#) with recent known or suspected [exposure](#) to SARS-CoV-2 to control transmission
 - Testing [asymptomatic individuals](#) without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for early identification in [special settings](#)
 - Testing to determine [resolution of infection](#) (i.e., test-based strategy for Discontinuation of Transmission-based Precautions, [HCP Return to Work](#), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](#))
 - [Public health surveillance](#) for SARS-CoV-2
-
- Diagnostic
- Screening
- Diagnostic

Viral Testing in Non-Healthcare Workplaces (cont.)

- Asymptomatic individuals with recent known or suspected exposure
 - Viral testing recommended for close contacts of persons with COVID-19
 - Viral testing may also be considered for ‘possible’ close contacts of persons (resources permitting & working with local health authorities)
 - Consider likelihood of exposure and characteristics of workplace
 - High-risk settings that have demonstrated potential for rapid and widespread dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 include:
 - High-density critical infrastructure workplaces
 - Workplaces where employees live in congregate settings

Viral Testing in Non-Healthcare Workplaces (cont.)

- Asymptomatic individuals without recent known or suspected exposure
 - Particularly in areas with moderate/substantial community transmission
 - Workplaces where physical distancing is difficult
 - Workplaces in remote settings
 - Critical infrastructure sectors
 - Workplaces providing congregate housing
- Approaches may include:
 - Initial viral testing of all workers before entering a workplace
 - Periodic viral testing of workers at regular intervals
 - Targeted viral testing of new workers or those returning from absence

Return to Work Issues

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/returning-to-work.html>
- Protect yourself and others in the workplace
- Quarantine vs Isolation

When to Quarantine

- Stay home if you might have been exposed to COVID-19
 - 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>



How to Discontinue Home Isolation

People with COVID-19 who have stayed home can stop home isolation under the following conditions:

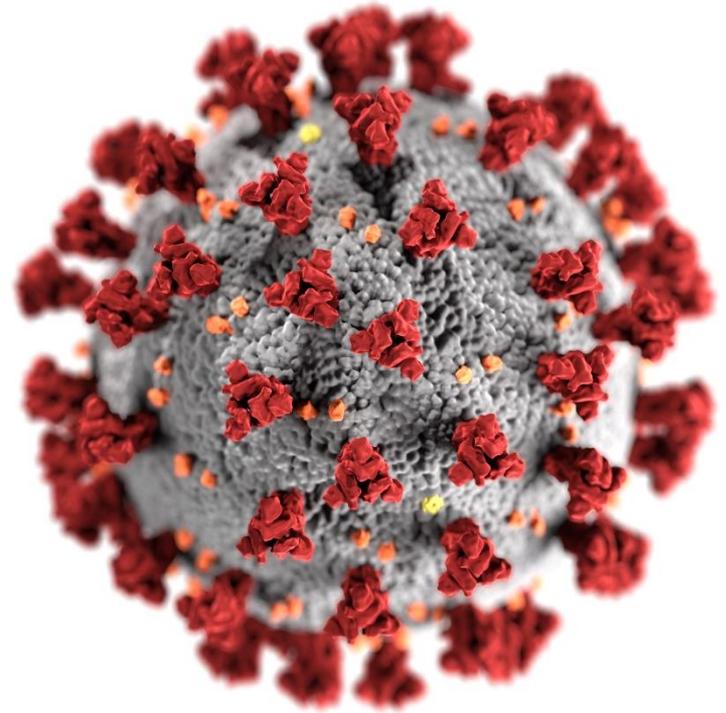
- **Recommended strategy**
 - No fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, **AND**
 - Improvement in other symptoms, **AND**
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- People who have **NOT** had any symptoms should wait until 10 days have passed since their first positive test
- Test-based strategy – special circumstances
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>



Protecting the Oil & Gas Workforce during COVID-19

NIOSH Team
Part II

September 15, 2020



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Disclaimer

- The information covered in this webinar is not exhaustive and it is meant to convey critical information businesses should use when developing plans for screening and testing workers in the setting of COVID-19 occurring among workers or in the surrounding community.
- For full guidance and information, please consult the:
CDC Interim Guidance for Business and Employers Responding to COVID-19
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- The information in this presentation is current as of September 3, 2020



Overview

- What oil and gas workers need to know about COVID-19
 - Protect yourself and others
- COVID-19 oil and gas employer information
 - Protect your staff
 - Engineering controls
 - Administrative controls
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Transportation



What Oil and Gas Workers Need to Know about COVID-19



Stay home if you are having symptoms of COVID-19

- Follow CDC recommended steps if you are sick
- If you develop symptoms on the way to your worksite, notify your supervisor immediately
- Do not return to work until you meet the criteria to discontinue home isolation
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about when it's safe for you to return to work and coordinate with your employer
- Follow CDC recommended precautions for when you are sick or caring for others who are sick
- Tell your supervisor if you are well but someone you live with or had recent close contact with has COVID-19



Stay at least 6 feet away from visitors and coworkers, when possible

- **At offshore facilities:** Plan your movement to reduce your chance of exposure to the virus
- Be aware when entering areas that may lead to close contact with coworkers, such as break rooms, restrooms, dog houses, and living quarters
- Your employer may modify your schedule to reduce mingling and close contact with other workers, such as staggering mealtimes and forming small groups of workers who work and eat at the same times and do not mix with other groups of workers
 - Follow this schedule to protect yourself
- Comply with your employer's efforts to physically separate workers in work areas and other areas such as break rooms, the mess and galley, and locker rooms



Wear a cloth mask

- In public
- At work indoors unless considered a hazard by your employer
- Especially when it may be difficult for you to stay 6 feet apart
- Outdoor workers can use masks when in close contact with other people, and remove masks when social distancing is possible
- Cloth masks help prevent virus spread to others



Cloth Face Covering Do's & Don'ts:

DO:

- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

DON'T:

- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for healthcare workers

 cdc.gov/coronavirus

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

- Clean and disinfect tools used by multiple workers between shared use.
 - Follow the directions on the cleaning product's label.
 - Wash your hands afterwards.



Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

- You don't need to wear gloves if you wash your hands regularly (unless they are already required for your job)
- Use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't available



Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose, or eyes

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes.**

- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Throw used tissues in the trash
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available



How to cope with stress

- Mental health is an important part of worker safety and health
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges in the ways many people work and connect with others, which may raise feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression
- Information and resources about mental health, knowing signs of stress, taking steps to manage stress, and knowing where to go if you need help are available:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/mental-health-non-healthcare.html>



COVID-19 Oil and Gas Employer Information



How you can protect your staff and others and slow the spread

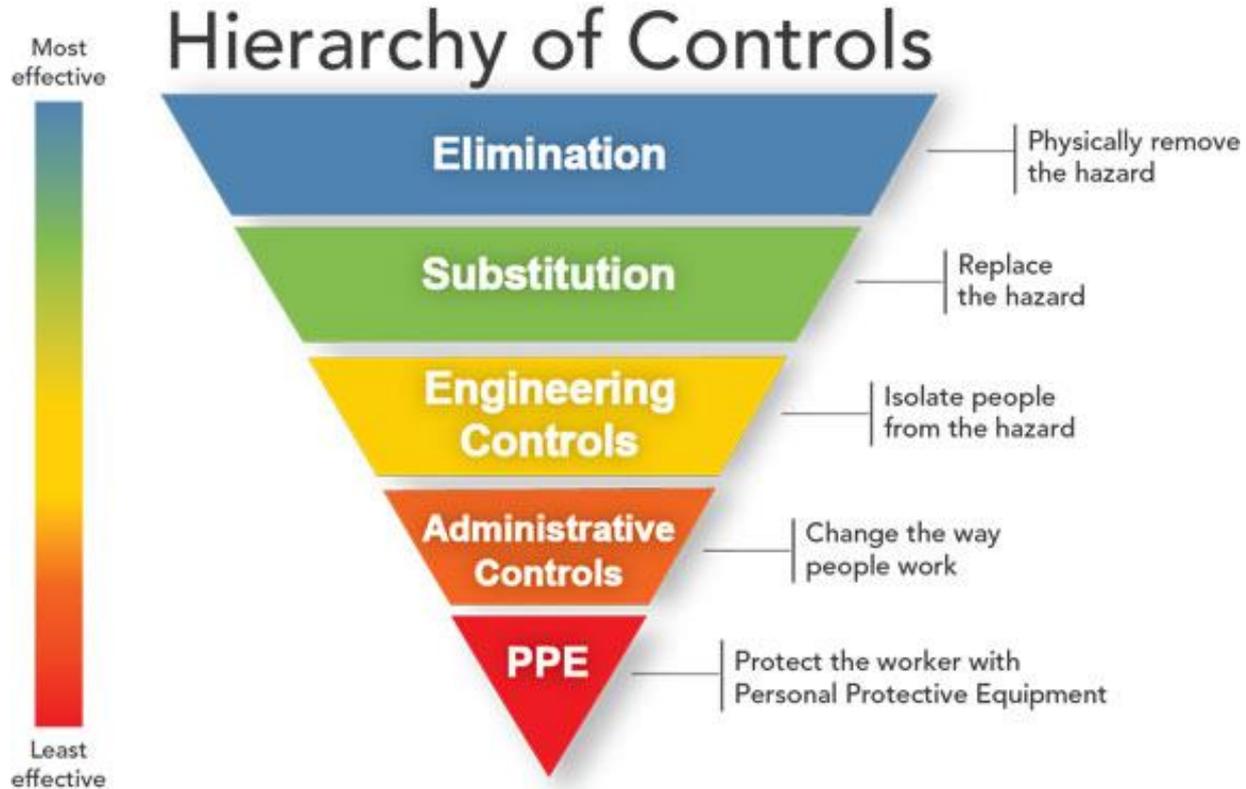
- Evaluate your site to identify scenarios where workers cannot maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from each other and visitors
- Use appropriate combinations of controls following the **hierarchy of controls** to address these situations to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19
 - A committee of both workers and management may be most effective at recognizing all scenarios



Protect your staff and others (cont.)

- Control recommendations or interventions to reduce risk of COVID-19 must be compatible with any safety programs and personal protective equipment (PPE) normally required for the job task
- Approaches to consider may include the following:
 - **Create and implement a COVID-19 Workplace Health and Safety Plan**
 - **Take action if an employee or visitor is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19**
 - **Develop hazard controls using the hierarchy of controls to prevent infection among workers**

Develop hazard controls using the hierarchy of controls



Create and implement a COVID-19 Workplace Health and Safety Plan

- Identify an on-site workplace coordinator who will be responsible for COVID-19 assessment and control
- Implement flexible sick leave and supportive policies and practices
- Consider conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks (e.g., symptom and/or temperature screening) of employees on scheduled workdays and visitors before arrival

Workplace Health and Safety Plan (cont.)

- **For Offshore Oil and Gas facilities:**

- Consider standing up a virtual incident command system capable of providing telemedicine consultation, assisting with the management of suspected COVID-19 cases
- Maintain a daily log of approved visitors
- Determine if some tasks can be done remotely to reduce the number of employees on the offshore facility
- Consider reducing personnel on board (POB) to essential personnel only, while ensuring workers get enough rest and recovery

Take action if an employee or visitor is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

- Immediately separate employees or visitors who report with or experience symptoms at work from other employees and arrange for private transport home
 - These employees should self-isolate and contact their health care provider immediately
- Perform enhanced cleaning and disinfection after anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 has been in the workplace
 - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment used by the sick person, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces or objects
 - If other workers do not have access to these areas or items, wait 24 hours (if 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible) before cleaning and disinfecting

Employees who test positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Should immediately notify their employer of their results
- Sick employees should follow CDC recommended steps to self-isolate or seek care
- Employees should not return to work until they meet the criteria to discontinue home isolation, in consultation with healthcare providers

Engineering Controls

Alter the workspace using engineering controls to prevent exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.



Engineering Controls – Isolate people from the hazards

- Modify the alignment of workstations where feasible
 - For example, redesign workstations so workers are not facing each other
- Where possible, establish physical barriers between workers. This includes all areas of the facilities, such as restrooms
- Close or limit access to common areas where employees are likely to gather and interact, such as trailers, break rooms, and in entrance/exit areas



Engineering controls (cont.)

- Consider making foot traffic single direction in narrow or confined areas, such as aisles and stairwells, to encourage single-file movement at least a 6-foot distance
- Use visual cues such as floor decals, colored tape, and signs to remind workers to maintain distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Place handwashing stations or hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol in multiple locations throughout the site for workers and visitors

Engineering controls (cont.)

- Make sure the workspace is well-ventilated
 - Portable high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration units may be considered to remove contaminants in the air of poorly ventilated areas
- Additional considerations for improving the building ventilation system can be found in the [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) and [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#).

Administrative Controls

Provide training and other administrative policies to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Administrative controls – Change the way people work

- All workers should have a basic understanding of COVID-19
- Trainings should include the importance of social distancing, wearing cloth masks appropriately, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, not sharing personal items or tools/equipment unless absolutely necessary, and not touching their face, mouth, nose, or eyes
- Workers should be encouraged to go home or stay home if they feel sick



Administrative controls (cont.)

- Conduct health checks (e.g., screening for temperature and/or other symptoms) for all personnel and visitors before they check-in to board any marine vessels or helicopters to go offshore
- Consider maintaining small groups of workers in teams (cohorting) to reduce the number of coworkers each person is exposed to
- Consider extending the duration of work shifts
 - For example, from 21 to 28 days, on offshore facilities to reduce turnover and give workers sufficient time to self-quarantine when they are not working

Administrative controls (cont.)

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Provide employees adequate time and access to soap, clean water, and single use paper towels for handwashing
- Limit the number of people gathered at one time
- Eliminate shared living quarters to the extent possible
- Remind employees that people may be able to spread COVID-19 even if they do not show symptoms
- Post signs and reminders at entrances and in strategic places

Administrative controls (cont.)

- Use cloth masks as appropriate
 - Cloth masks are intended to protect other people around you—not the wearer
 - They are not considered to be personal protective equipment
- Consider requiring visitors to the workplace (e.g., service personnel) to also wear cloth masks



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE is the last step in the hierarchy of controls because it is more difficult to use effectively than other measures
- Special emphasis is given to administrative and engineering controls when addressing occupational hazards
- Oil and gas workers should continue to wear all PPE required for their normal jobs



Transportation



Transportation – if sharing vehicle:

- Limit the number of people per vehicle as much as possible
 - This may mean using more vehicles
- Encourage employees to maintain social distancing as much as possible
- Encourage employees to use hand hygiene before entering the vehicle and when arriving at the destination
- Encourage employees in a shared van or car space to [wear cloth masks](#)



Transportation – if sharing vehicle (cont.)

- Avoid using the recirculated air option for the car's ventilation during passenger transport
 - Use the car's vents to bring in fresh outside air and/or lower the vehicle windows
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol, alcohol wipes for disinfecting surfaces, tissues, and small trash cans for vehicles
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces after each trip and prior to using fuel pumps
- If a third party must have access to the interior of a vehicle (e.g., mechanics, inspectors), request that the third party clean and disinfect

Carpooling

Here are ways that you can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 when carpooling:



WEAR MASKS
in a shared vehicle

Use **FRESH AIR** through
VENTS or **WINDOWS**



COVER COUGHS
and **SNEEZES**

CLEAN and **DISINFECT**
surfaces often



LIMIT THE NUMBER
of people

Use proper
HAND HYGIENE



RIDE to work **WITH**
the **SAME PEOPLE**

Stay at least **SIX FEET**
APART while waiting



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

If you are sick or had close contact with a person with COVID-19, stay home unless seeking medical care.
For more information on how to stay safe at work, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Where can I get more information?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/offshore-oil-gas-employers.html>. The page features a teal header with the text "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" and a banner image of diverse people wearing face masks with the text "WEAR A MASK. PROTECT OTHERS." Below the header is a navigation menu with categories: "Your Health", "Community, Work & School", "Healthcare Workers & Labs", "Health Depts", "Cases & Data", and "More". The main content area is titled "COMMUNITY, WORK & SCHOOL" and "COVID-19 Employer Information for Offshore Oil and Gas". It includes a sidebar with expandable sections: "Community, Work & School", "Health Equity", "Community Mitigation Framework", "Cleaning & Disinfecting", "Businesses & Workplaces", and "Worker Safety & Support". The main text states: "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness (see list of [symptoms](#)) caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Here is what we currently know:" followed by a bullet point: "The main way the virus [spreads](#) is from person to person through respiratory droplets when people...". There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and Print. A "More Info for Offshore Oil and Gas" section is partially visible with a sub-section for "Employees".

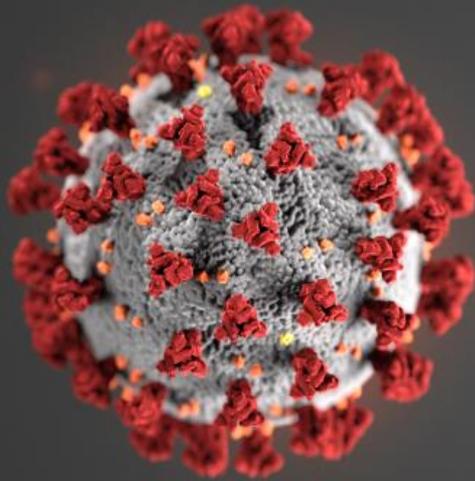
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/offshore-oil-gas-employers.html>

More information (cont.)

- [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- [NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topic: COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#)
- [CDC COVID-19](#)
- [OSHA COVID-19](#)
- [OSHA Guidelines on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- [National Ocean Industries Association \(NOIA\) COVID-19 and Offshore Safety](#)
- [Offshore Operators Committee COVID-19 Mitigation](#)
- CDCINFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348 | website: [cdc.gov/info](https://www.cdc.gov/info)

Questions?





For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Extra slides

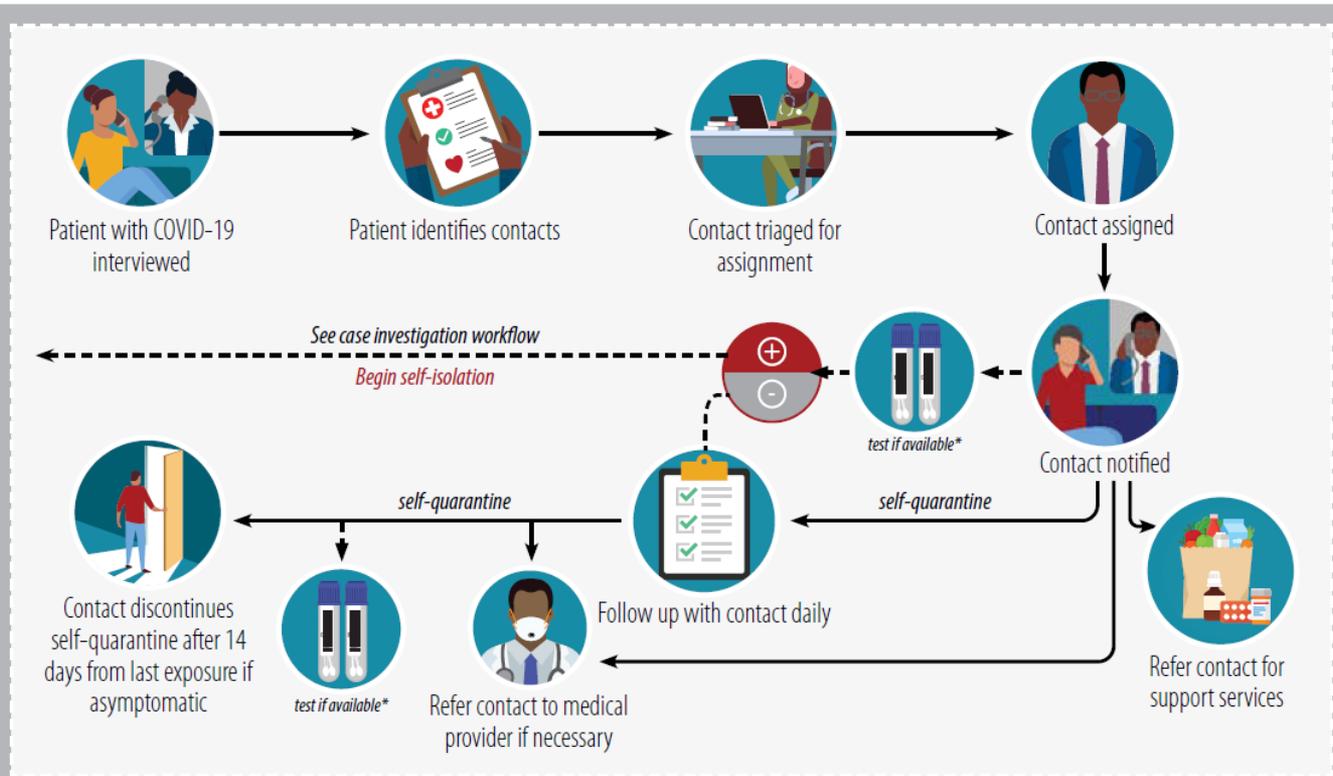


Key Public Health Actions for COVID-19

- **Case investigation** and **contact tracing** are interventions in a successful, multipronged response to COVID-19
- All confirmed (symptomatic and asymptomatic) and probable COVID-19 patients should receive follow-up to prevent further spread of the virus
- Prompt identification and isolation of patients and quarantine of contacts can help break the chain of disease transmission



CONTACT TRACING WORKFLOW (COVID-19)



*if contact tests positive or develops COVID-19 symptoms, case investigation is necessary.



cdc.gov/COVID19

Authority & Resources

- Authority and responsibility for these interventions are vested in state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments
- Multisectoral partnerships are essential to scale up comprehensive case investigation and contact tracing for COVID-19
- [CDC's Health Department Contact Tracing Resources](#)



Roles and Responsibilities in Workplace Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

- The level of interaction between the health department and an employer will vary depending on several factors
- When a COVID-19 case is identified that impacts a workplace, the health department may proceed in a number of ways, including:
 - A. Ask the employer for help in understanding the risk for transmission in the workplace and identifying exposures and contacts in the workplace; or
 - B. Rely on the employer to identify workplace contacts; or
 - C. Conduct workplace contact tracing without directly engaging the employer



Assessment of Potential Workplace Transmission

- **Employers can assist in the response to COVID-19 by:**
 - Creating and implementing a preparedness, response, and control plan
 - CDC’s “Businesses and Workplaces” web page
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>
 - Collecting information about the workplace
 - Supporting employees and conduct workplace hazard evaluation and prevention activities

