

Washington Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers (except COVID-19 care in hospitals & clinics) Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Choices



May 22, 2020

Worksite Tasks	Negligible Transmission Risk	Low Transmission Risk	Medium Transmission Risk	High Transmission Risk	Extremely High Risk
Health status of the people around you	Healthy/Asymptomatic (no COVID-19 symptoms)	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Healthy/Asymptomatic	Probable or known COVID-19 source or direct human mouth, nose, eye interactions.
Example of work conditions *, **	Employee working alone, or all outside, or 1-9 total persons inside building/structure with outside or HVAC air, where at least 6-foot distance is always maintained . Tools are not shared or are sanitized between different users.	Crews outside on large worksite where at least 6-foot distance is easily maintained fulltime and only broken intermittently, in passing, up to several times a day. Tools are not shared or are sanitized between different users.	Large crews outside where at least 6-foot distance is mostly maintained , but with job tasks that require several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day. Tools are shared and sanitized between different users.	Work in close quarters, such as a multiple-occupancy permit-required confined space or inside a room with 10 or more people where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained , and includes job tasks requiring sustained close-together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour multiple times a day.	Transporting/caring for symptomatic patients with probable or active COVID-19 within 6 feet in vehicle; or non-hospital setting or a residence with no sanitization protocols in place.
	Worksite with controlled and low public interaction, where at least 6-foot distance is always maintained and only broken in passing once or twice a day.	Work inside a structure/office where number present allows for at least 6-foot distance to be easily maintained fulltime and only broken intermittently, in passing, up to several times a day.	Work inside a structure/office where at least 6-foot distance is mostly maintained , but with job tasks that require sustained several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day without sneeze guards or other mitigations.	Work cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces and floor after confirmed active COVID-19 employee was present in the area. Also includes work that cannot be delayed, performing services in homes of quarantined confirmed COVID-19 clients. Examples include emergency plumbing repair or in-home pet euthanasia.	Healthcare work involving face-to-face close proximity or potential for coughing or sneezing while working with healthy or asymptomatic people . Potential for droplets of biological material or fluids to become airborne within the breathing zone of the employee. Examples include tonometry during eye exams, visual examination of the oral and nasal cavities, visual examination of the eyes, swab sampling in the mouth or nose.

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		Non-healthcare work involving personal services (such as haircuts) where there are 1 or 2 workers inside room. All clients assumed to be wearing cloth face coverings or higher level of protection.	Non-healthcare work involving personal services (such as haircuts) where there are 3-6 workers inside a room where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained and job tasks require sustained close-together (less than 3 feet apart) work. All clients assumed to be wearing cloth face coverings or higher level of protection.	Healthcare work involving procedures in close proximity to healthy or asymptomatic people with potential for aerosols generated from saliva or mucous from the mouth or nose. Examples include dental work with an ultrasonic scaler, air/water syringe, or hand piece, administering medicines with a nebulizer, spirometry, deep or forced breathing exercises.	
<p>Number of people and conditions in work vehicle</p> <p>Note: Vehicles must be sanitized between different drivers and occupants.</p>	Vehicle operation: employees ride alone and vehicles are sanitized between different drivers.	Vehicle with more than one occupant but can maintain 6-foot distance that is only broken intermittently up to several times a day.	Vehicle with more than one occupant but mostly maintain 6-foot distance with job tasks that require several minutes of 6-foot distance broken several times a day.	Vehicle with more than one occupant where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained , and includes job tasks requiring close-together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour more than once a day.	Vehicle with more than one occupant where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained , and includes job tasks requiring close-together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour at least once a day.

Work Conditions	Negligible Transmission Risk	Low Transmission Risk	Medium Transmission Risk	High Transmission Risk	Extremely High Risk
Minimum required mask or respiratory protection for employees without additional engineering controls or PPE ***	Reusable cloth face covering that fully covers mouth and nose are required for employees covered by Governor Executive Order Industry agreements except when working alone in room, vehicle, or on jobsite.	Reusable cloth face covering that fully covers mouth and nose are required for employees covered by Governor Executive Order Industry agreements except when working alone in room, vehicle, or on jobsite.	Non-cloth disposables: dust mask, KN95 or other non-approved foreign-system NIOSH-style filtering facepiece respirators, or non-FDA approved procedure masks.	Elastomeric half- or full-face respirator with particulate filters **** --OR-- Powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) with particulate filter. (Tight-fitting respirators must be fit-tested and the wearer must be clean-shaven. No fit-testing is required for loose fitting systems.) --OR-- Industrial use N95, R95 or P95 or foreign-system non-NIOSH approved filtering facepiece respirator (or other particulate respirator****).	FDA-approved surgical mask or healthcare N95 filtering facepiece respirator**** or elastomeric respirator with particulate filters. Tight-fitting respirators must be fit-tested and the wearer must be clean-shaven. Powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) with particulate filter may be used; no fit testing is required for loose-fitting models. When feasible, clients with COVID-19 should also wear an FDA-approved surgical N95 or surgical mask.
Strongly recommended worksite protections	Reusable cloth face covering that fully covers mouth and nose for all employees not working alone.	Use multiple engineering and administrative controls together to reduce frequency and risk of touch and airborne transmission between people. Ask workers for suggestions on further improvements to controls.	Use face shield combined with minimum face covering to lower risk category where work or job task allows.	Minimize number of workers present in high-risk work tasks. Consider all possible ways to accomplish the work without people in close proximity.	Add face shield to surgical masks or eye goggles to half- face disposable respirators and non-permeable disposable upper body coverings; use powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) system, elastomeric full-face respirators with particulate filters or higher protection.

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Comment	Employees should be strongly encouraged not to carpool to and from work unless wearing facial covering or mask protection. This is suspected as a source of several national outbreaks.				

*Social distancing is at least 6 feet apart between employee to employee, or employee to any other human.

**Other respirators or PPE may be required due to other hazards such as chemical exposures or projectile exposures. The PPE ensemble must protect the worker from all hazards that are not otherwise controlled.

*** Without additional engineering controls or PPE for employees like barriers or face shields or local ventilation.

**** Particulate-filtering respirators are rated by NIOSH for oil mist resistance (N, R, or P) and filtering efficiency (95, 99, and 100). An N-95 respirator is the least resistant to oil mists and lowest-filter efficiency. For protection from the COVID-19 virus, an N-95 rated respirator is sufficient and any other particulate respirator can be substituted. Foreign-certified respirators below may be used:

- Australia: AS/NZS 1716:2012
- Brazil: ABNT/NBR 13694:1996; ABNT/NBR 13697:1996; and ABNT/NBR 13698:2011
- People's Republic of China: GB 2626-2006; and GB 2626-2019
- European Union: EN 140-1999; EN 143-2000; and EN 149-2001
- Japan: JMHLW-2000
- Republic of Korea: KMOEL-2014-46; and KMOEL-2017-64
- Mexico: NOM-116-2009