

# WISCONSIN

GUIDANCE ON PREPARING WORKPLACES FOR COVID-19



MANUFACTURING





As one of Wisconsin's leading industries, manufacturing has a significant impact on our economic growth, with more than 9,400 manufacturers contributing nearly 20% of the state's GDP. While many manufacturers have been deemed essential and have remained open, there are many that still need to prepare for reopening. To ensure consistency in keeping you and your employees safe, this guide is intended to provide general guidelines and best practices for manufacturers looking to take steps to open their facility when it is time to do so. In addition, please see the "**General Guidance for All Businesses**" document for guidance that applies to all industries, and please consult the other available industry guides as relevant for your specific business type.

## Recommendations for Manufacturers

### Employee health and hygiene

- ▶ Establish a strategy for on-site health screening upon entrance to the facility (see "**General Guidance for All Businesses**").
- ▶ Employees who have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 shall not be allowed to work.
- ▶ Maintain an adequate supply of paper goods, soap and hand sanitizer to allow proper hand hygiene among employees and staff.
- ▶ Educate your employees on the need to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before preparing or eating food; after using the bathroom; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing one's nose. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used if soap and water are not available.
- ▶ Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.

### Cleaning and disinfection

- ▶ Maintain an adequate supply of cleaning and disinfection products.
- ▶ If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as workstations, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, countertops and bathroom fixtures.
- ▶ Consider establishing a cleaning and disinfection team to conduct these activities on a regular schedule each day.



PROTECT



WASH OFTEN



DISINFECT



CAUTION



- ▶ Encourage staff to avoid sharing work tools and equipment when possible. If necessary, disinfect shared tools/equipment before and after each use. Common tools like two-way radios, brooms, rakes, scrapers and hand tools should be disinfected after each use.
- ▶ Provide personal pens, markers and other routine work supplies for each individual.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) and cloth face coverings

- ▶ Supply face masks or cloth face coverings for all employees. Face masks or coverings should be used by all workers in manufacturing environments where workers are in close proximity to others. Face coverings are not appropriate where masks or respirators are required.
- ▶ Face shields or goggles may also be necessary for employees who must work together at distances closer than six feet.
- ▶ Instruct your employees in how to properly put on and remove a face mask or cloth face covering. The [CDC](#) illustrates how to properly wear a face covering and has several tutorials for how to wear one.
- ▶ Consider distributing daily or weekly allocations of other personal protective equipment (e.g., earplugs, hairnets, beard coverings) instead of common use dispensers.

## Engineering controls

- ▶ Increase ventilation rates.
- ▶ Increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system.
- ▶ Review [guidance from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#) and consult with HVAC professionals when considering ventilation changes to reduce the risk of COVID-19.
- ▶ Nonporous physical barriers may also be used to separate employees who have work locations that are less than six feet apart.

## Social distancing in the workplace

- ▶ Review your processes and workflows to ensure that employees are at least six feet away from each other when possible. Do not allow personal contact (e.g., handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, high fives) or close conversations.
- ▶ Limit in-person meetings as much as possible.
- ▶ Limit access to areas where people gather.
- ▶ Develop a protocol for any physical signoff requirements to avoid close contact.



## Personnel movement in the facility

- ▶ If possible, make narrow hallways one-way only.
- ▶ In order to allow employees to move between areas of the facility without having to touch doors or knobs, consider removing doors or keeping them open where possible, or adding automatic doors or foot pulls.
- ▶ Instruct employees to avoid hallway conversations and interactions.

## Break rooms and locker rooms

- ▶ Stagger breaks and modify break room seating to ensure that employees cannot sit within six feet of one another.
- ▶ Frequently clean and disinfect tables, chairs/benches, handles, faucets, countertops, refrigerators and microwaves.
- ▶ Consider suspending coffee service.
- ▶ Have sanitizing wipes readily available in break rooms and locker rooms to clean common surfaces after each break or shift change.
- ▶ With some employees working remotely, determine if any office spaces can be repurposed for additional break room and locker room space.





## Shift changes

- ▶ Stagger workdays and start times to the extent possible.
  - ▶ Investigate the possibility of using phone apps, web-based apps, or a camera to clock employees in and out.
  - ▶ If a time clock must be used, add floor marks to ensure proper spacing of six feet between employees and provide hand sanitizer near the time clock.
  - ▶ Make sure to include a regular sanitation schedule between and during shifts.
  - ▶ Employee training, support and communication
  - ▶ Use routine meetings, postings (including electronic postings), the company website and start-of-day reminders to communicate with workers about actions being taken to prevent COVID-19 exposure.
  - ▶ Post signage in languages understood by your employees to remind them of safe practices for social distancing, hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- ▶ Provide refresher training for employees on proper handwashing, social distancing, employee illness reporting, and any other procedural changes the company has implemented in response to COVID-19.
  - ▶ Institute a process for workers to report COVID-19 symptoms.
  - ▶ Consider the use of electronic communication devices such as wireless headphones for loud/ noisy areas and two-way radios for less noisy areas; these may help employees communicate in production areas while maintaining safe distancing. These can be useful for cross-training and training new employees.
  - ▶ Provide resources to evaluate compliance.
  - ▶ Train employees on how to recognize areas or practices that pose a risk for spreading the virus, and define a process to quickly review and provide mitigation strategies in these areas. Include a recognizing/ reporting module in your COVID-19 response plan.
  - ▶ Consider designating one or more employees to monitor changes in workplace guidance.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

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