

Covid-19 Exposure Control Plan Info Sheet



COVID-19 is a serious health threat, and the situation is evolving daily. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered high.

Under Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 85, as an Employer, you must have an Exposure Plan for dealing with Covid-19 on your worksite.

“Expose” means harmful contact with an infectious material or organism from inhalation, ingestion, skin or mucous membrane contact or percutaneous injury.

If workers are required is likely to be exposed to an infectious material at a place of employment, an employer must develop and implement an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize worker exposure.

An exposure control plan must include the following detailed items:

- It must be in writing;
- It must identify any workers who may be exposed;
- Identify tasks and procedures that may put workers at risk of exposure;
- Describe the ways in which an infectious organism can enter the body of a worker and the risks associated with that entry;
- Describe the signs and symptoms of any disease that may arise for a workern exposed;
- Describe infection control measures to be used, such as the following:
 - * vaccination;
 - * engineering controls;
 - * personal protective equipment;
 - * safe work practices and procedures; and
 - * standard practices that incorporate universal precautions;
- Identify the limitations of the infection control measures
- Procedures to be followed if:
 - * if a worker has been exposed;
 - * if a worker believes that he or she has been exposed;
- Methods of cleaning, disinfecting or disposing of clothing, personal protective equipment or other equipment contaminated with an infectious organism that must be followed and who is responsible for carrying out those activities;
- Training to be provided to workers who may be exposed and how this training will be provided
- The requirement of investigation and documentation of any work-related exposure incident, this includes the need to protect worker confidentiality. It also includes the route of exposure and how the exposure occurred

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In addition to creating an exposure plan, an employer must ensure the following:

- No employer shall allow a worker to perform any tasks or procedures unless the worker has been trained in the requirements of the exposure control plan and the use of control measures appropriate for the task.
- An employer must review the adequacy of the exposure control plan, and amend the plan if necessary to reflect advances in infection control measures.
- The plan, and any changes, must be made readily available to all workers.
- If a vaccine becomes available, the employer must communicate this information to all workers who may be exposed.

As an Employer, why is infection control your responsibility?

Remember that **Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 12** states the **General Duties of Employers**. These duties, when applied to the current Covid-19 situation in Saskatchewan, states that an employer must provide systems of work and working environment that ensures the health and safety of workers.

This means that an employer must ensure during a pandemic, that workers who may be exposed have systems in place to reduce the risk of exposure to themselves and co-workers. Some of these systems will include Government requirements such as social-distancing and hand washing. Many of these systems will be based on how the company performs work and where.

An exposure plan is part of this system. It will help the employer meet the employer duties and communicate all of the requirements for protection to the workforce.

For further information see Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 85

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