

Guidance for Workplaces and Business - COVID Preparedness and Response

As Saskatchewan, Canada and the world continue to respond and prepare to the emergence of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) we recognize that workplaces and business are key partners.

Here you will find information on the current state the Saskatchewan perspective and information on how to prepare your workplace and your employees.

- Although at this time Saskatchewan reports a travel related case of COVID-19, but the risk of community wide infection remains low.
- At this time, business closure due to COVID-19 is not recommended.
- Best practices to help protect against COVID-19, as well as other infections, is to stay home when sick, wash hands properly, use good respiratory etiquette and avoid touching any part of the face.
- There is no evidence that surgical masks protect people who are not sick and so they are not recommended outside specific occupational settings. The World Health Organization does not recommend the use of any masks if you do not have a travel history and respiratory symptoms.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in other countries. The latest affected areas and travel advice is available on the [Health Canada - Latest Travel Health Advice page](#).
- It is important for all returning travelers from areas where community spread of COVID-19 has been reported to monitor their health and to avoid situations where there are large numbers of people (mass gatherings) when they return home. While away, they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Monitor for fever, cough and difficulty breathing for 14 days after arriving in home. If someone has these symptoms, they should contact HealthLine 811 for assessment and direction.
- The research and data on COVID-19 continues to grow and evolve. Advice will be updated based on the latest science available.
- The public health risk associated with COVID-19 remains low for Canada. Public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available.

Please monitor the [Government of Saskatchewan's 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) webpage as this will include the most up-to-date Saskatchewan specific guidance and information.

Below are credible and resources which go into further detail in terms of business continuity planning and general workplace preparedness for COVID-19 that your workplace can use to help develop their own plans and responses –

1. Ministry of Saskatchewan -

Coronavirus Information for Saskatchewan Schools and Workplaces - updated February 26, 2020

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

2. World Health Organization (WHO) –

Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf>

3. US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC)

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>