

## Employers play an important role in controlling the spread of COVID-19 - March 2020

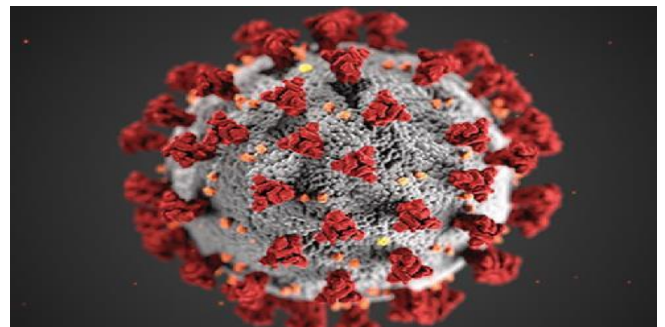
Employers have asked for guidance on what to do to respond to the spread of COVID-19 disease. Employers should start taking steps now, and should be using all resources necessary to prepare for and respond to the outbreak.

In addition to normal hazard-prevention strategies, like engineering controls or personal protective equipment for specific hazards, all employers should now develop and implement infectious disease safety strategies, including the following steps:

- Implement business/worksites specific social distancing (including worker and customer interactions).
- Post educational posters for employees.
- Encourage sick employees to stay or go home.
- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing with adequate supplies of soap and running water, and when not readily available, alcohol-based hand rubs of at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Discourage the sharing of utensils, desks, phones, and work tools.
- Maintain regular housekeeping/disinfection practices.

### Social Distancing

Social distancing can help control rapid escalation of the number of infections. Employers should implement business/worksites specific social distancing strategies to reduce the frequency, proximity, and duration of contact between people (both employees and customers) to help reduce the number of coronavirus exposures. This is particularly important in geographical areas of high disease transmission potential as identified by government leaders and local health departments. Employers can gather ideas from employees about eliminating unnecessary physical contact with customers or fellow employees. Strongly consider elimination of in-person meetings that can be done electronically. Implement new company-wide greeting practices such as head nods or a wave or other non-touching gestures.



#### Workplace Posters

##### CDC

##### Facts about COVID-19:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf)

##### Don't Spread Germs at Work:

[www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf)

##### Stay Home if You're Sick:

[www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-item5.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-item5.pdf)

## Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

For good guidance for employers with different levels of risk, access this OSHA document:

[www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf)

It provides a thorough discussion of different strategies employers can use. Working together with community leaders we all can slow the spread of the disease. Your workplace actions are needed. We can also provide assistance through the contact in this alert.

### Related Resources

**South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)**

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):**  
<https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

**SC DHEC News:**  
[www.scdhec.gov/news-releases](http://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases)

### How can I get help from SC OSHA?

South Carolina OSHA's Outreach and Education provides program consultations, training, and education at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to SC OSHA's Education webpage for more information. You may also call (803) 896-7744.

*This fact sheet was developed to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. **This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations.** The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. SC OSHA recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.*

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**Contact Information**  
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