

Recommendations during a COVID-19 Outbreak

Temporary Worker Housing Facilities

The Washington State Department of Health has developed this guidance to assist temporary worker housing facilities in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. While the situation is evolving, at this time we believe that people over 60, immune-compromised people and those with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Stay up-to-date.

Monitor public health updates from:

- [Local Public Health Department](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Situation Summary](#)

Protect employees and occupants.

- 1. Educate employees and occupants about COVID-19.** Make sure they know the potential risks and basic prevention measures, such as:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Require everyone to wash their hands upon entering the housing, before meals, after time outside, and prior to leaving for work.
 - Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands especially your eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - Cough and sneeze into elbow or into a tissue. Throw away the tissue immediately after use and wash hands. (For employees tips, see [Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings](#).)
 - Maintain a minimum of six feet of distance between yourself and others when feasible.
 - Frequently clean and disinfect high contact surfaces like doorknobs, tables, furniture, shared bathrooms, and countertops.
- 2. Provide employees and occupants with what they need to prevent transmission.**
 - Consider providing masks to sick people, if available.
 - Ensure adequate supplies of soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues are readily available.
- 3. Post signs** sharing how employees and occupants can protect themselves and others at the facility. Consider posting signs at entrances and in bathrooms.
 - [DOH Coronavirus Factsheet](#)
 - [DOH Education Materials](#)
 - [CDC Print Resources](#)
- 4. Increase the distance between people in sleeping accommodations, where feasible.** Offering individual rooms for groups or families is ideal, but not typically available. In shared

spaces, a “head-to-toe” sleeping arrangement with a minimum of six feet of distance between beds is recommended.

5. **Encourage occupants to report illnesses and exposure to COVID-19** prior or upon entry to the facility.
6. **Conduct daily health checks** of employees when they arrive. Look for signs of illness and ask about the employee’s health.
7. **Provide guidance for employees if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 (such as a sore throat, cough, or difficulty breathing) at work.** Ask them to:
 - Immediately self-isolate (separate themselves from others)
 - Notify their supervisor, if applicable
 - Go home and stay home until 7 days after symptoms onset or 72 hours after symptoms resolve, whichever is longer
 - If symptoms persist or worsen, call their health care provider for further guidance
8. **Separate sick occupants from those without symptoms.** Facilities with a single room should assign sick occupants to one side and occupants without symptoms to the opposite side.
 - Encourage employees and occupants to remain home if they are sick with cough, sneezing and/or fever. Inform them about sick leave policies.
 - If you have one or more occupants or employees exhibiting symptoms and you would like further guidance you should contact:
 - Your [local health department](#)
 - Or the state coronavirus hotline at 1-800-525-0127 and press # (Note: The hotline may be experiencing high traffic and may be temporarily unavailable, and keep trying.)
9. **Incorporate social distancing.** For example, eliminate all large group activities, increase the distance between workers during meals/free time, plan activities that do not require close physical contact, stagger outdoor time.
10. **Discourage visitation.** Discourage visitation at your facility and offer alternative methods of visitation (Skype, FaceTime, etc.), if available.
 - Maintain a record of all visitors. Collect contact information, date, and travel from visitors, including vendors, inspectors, etc.

Additional COVID-19 Resources

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO OR SUSPECT YOU HAVE COVID-19

- [What to do if you have confirmed or suspected coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with confirmed coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [What to do if you have symptoms of coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

ADDITIONAL WORKPLACE GUIDANCE

- [L&I Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)
 - Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) information on sick leave and worker's compensation.
- [COVID-19: Review of Respiratory Protection for Workers \(CDC\)](#)
 - Check for Spanish availability.
- [Biological Hazards](#) – resources
- [Cornell Agriculture Workforce Development \(Novel Coronavirus Prevention & Control for Farms\)](#)

GENERAL RESOURCES

- [DOH Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#) – updated information and resources daily
- [Workplace and Employers](#)
- [Persons Who are at Higher Risk for Serious Illness](#)
- [Communities and Community Organizations](#)
- [The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [Stigma Reduction](#)
- [How Can I Be Prepared for a COVID-19 Outbreak?](#)