# General Guidelines for Employers

Best Practices for Employers

- Those who are, or work with, high-risk populations, should undergo daily screening/symptom monitoring, and be tested if they begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms. High-risk populations should take extra precautions to avoid close contact with multiple people
- Use online conferencing, email, or telephone in place of in-person meetings, even when people are in the same building
- Employees and customers should not congregate in groups; if your business involves a waiting area, customers should wait outside or in their cars
- Encourage contactless pay options if possible; otherwise immediately disinfect transaction equipment
- Make regular announcements to remind employees and customers to follow distancing guidelines. Use floor markings to mark appropriate physical distance (6 or 10 feet) where appropriate
- Employers should provide face coverings for their employees
- Encourage digital files rather than paper formats (e.g. documentation, invoices, inspections, forms, agendas)
- Consider what reserve supplies may be necessary to obtain (e.g., cleaning supplies, gloves or other protective equipment)
- Consider the possibility of interruptions to water or power that might force closure
- Establish and maintain open dialogue with local communities, including key vendors and suppliers, exploring contingencies and sharing appropriate decisions about foodservice, transportation, and other services
- Identify a workplace coordinator who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact in the workplace
- If relevant, update emergency communication plan with key contacts and backups, chain of communications, and processes for tracking and communicating; share the response plan with employees and communicate expectations
- Ensure every employee's contact information and emergency contact details are up to date; ensure a plan is in place to reach employees quickly
- Educate workforce about the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, what the business is doing, and what they should do to protect themselves and their families
- Prepare for absenteeism—not only sick employees will stay home; others may need to care for the sick or children if schools close; those employees should notify their supervisors
- Provide signage at each public entrance to inform all employees and customers that they should:
  - Avoid entering if they fever, cough, muscle aches and pains, sudden changes in smell or taste, sore throat, shortness of breath, or feel generally unwell
  - Maintain a minimum 6-foot distance (10-foot distance in restaurants, gyms, fitness centers, or large event spaces due to prolonged exposure, increased movement, exertion, heavier breathing, cheering)
  - Sneeze/cough into cloth, tissue, elbow or sleeve (not hands)
  - Avoid hand shaking or unnecessary physical contact
  - Wear face coverings
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

Cleaning & Hygiene Guidelines for Employers

- Promote etiquette for coughing, sneezing, and handwashing; avoid touching face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth; place posters that encourage hand and respiratory hygiene
- Face coverings should be worn by employees and patrons, especially when difficult or impossible to maintain 6-foot distance
- Ensure adequate air circulation and post tips on how to stop the spread of germs
- When possible, discourage sharing of work tools and equipment
- Avoid handshaking
- Make a list of high-touch surfaces requiring routine disinfecting and perform routine environmental cleaning (e.g., elevator buttons, workstations, countertops, handrails, doorknobs, breakrooms, bathrooms, common areas), either twice a day or after each use. Keep a logbook of cleaning regimen. Those cleaning should:
  - Wear gloves
  - Prior to disinfecting, clean surfaces with soap and water if soiled
  - Use EPA-approved disinfectant, industrial cleaner, diluted bleach, or alcohol solutions
- Provide disposable disinfectant wipes for employee use on high-touch surfaces; provide no-touch trashbins
- Laundry: wear gloves, use warmest appropriate water setting, dry items completely, do not shake dirty laundry, launder items that have come in contact with COVID-19 separately
- Make hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant readily available. Provide pop-up handwashing stations or facilities where necessary (e.g. open houses, construction sites)
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) should not be shared and should be disposed of properly
- After using gloves, employees should wash their hands

Employers Monitoring Symptoms

- Employees who are sick or who appear to have COVID-19 symptoms should be separated from other employees/customers immediately and sent home; immediately clean and disinfect areas the sick employee visited
- Train managers/leadership to spot symptoms of COVID-19 and to be clear on relevant protocols
- Monitor employee symptoms, especially fever. If employees take simple medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or aspirin, they should take temperature beforehand
- Do not allow employees to come to work if they feel sick; create or maintain non-punitive leave policies so employees do not feel pressured to come to work if they are sick. Remind employees to report any illness to a manager, especially if sick with fever, cough, muscle aches and pains, sudden changes in smell or taste, sore throat, and/or shortness of breath
- If an employee is confirmed COVID-19 positive, employers should inform fellow employees while maintaining confidentiality; fellow employees should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days

Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses
to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation