

# COVID-19 Tool Kit- Safe Work Practices in the Nova Scotia Construction Industry

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# COVID-19 Tool Kit- Safe Work Practices in the Nova Scotia Construction Industry

## PREAMBLE

A pandemic of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has caused a worldwide demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) used by healthcare workers (HCWs). As a result, it is a reality in Nova Scotia that access to PPE and other infection prevention and control supplies are limited either temporarily or for an extended period.

The purpose of preservation strategies is paramount to prevent a shortage or exhaust our province's PPE supply and ensure that HCWs have access to the necessary supplies to safely perform patient care for seriously ill patients.

The world is experiencing an unprecedented pandemic and measures for individuals, communities, businesses and organizations are having to be nimble, responsible and strategic in how they respond. The intent of this tool kit is to offer a graduated risk mitigation approach that holds safety as paramount to productivity and economics. It is unfortunately no longer "business as usual" and Nova Scotia's public health measures, currently legislated and enforced through the premier's declaration of a State of Emergency as well as the Province's *Occupational Health & Safety Act*, take precedence. On 22 March, the Province of Nova Scotia declared a State of Emergency to help contain the spread of COVID-19. The state of emergency was extended on 2 April and is in effect until noon on 19 April 2020. Current legislative obligations applicable to COVID-19 are summarized in Appendix A.

***As with any new or novel virus, the scientific community is constantly evaluating the epidemiological evidence of this virus and as new evidence-based information and recommendations come to the fore, this tool kit may require revision and reissuance. Additionally, recommendations may change based on newer public health directives.***

The purpose of the tool kit is to provide recommendations and resources to the construction industry for operating safely during the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with Nova Scotia's *Health Protection Act*.

## HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

The construction industry is familiar with the hierarchy of controls and this philosophy is entirely appropriate when looking at a graduated or layered approach to mitigating risk of COVID-19 infection (See Figure 1).

Protecting construction workers from workplace risk has traditionally involved a range of administrative, engineering and environmental hazard controls to ensure worker safety. While the inherent risks in construction are still present and need to be mitigated, the introduction of managing COVID-19 will require different strategies. Given the nature of the hazard, some controls may need to be enacted concurrently for a multipronged, layered approach. As well, the forthcoming recommended respiratory protection is over and above what is required for prevention of infection however it is less impactful to healthcare's resources.

Most of the recommended PPE are already used often in the construction industry as a part of hazard controls and can be implemented in a relatively short period of time.

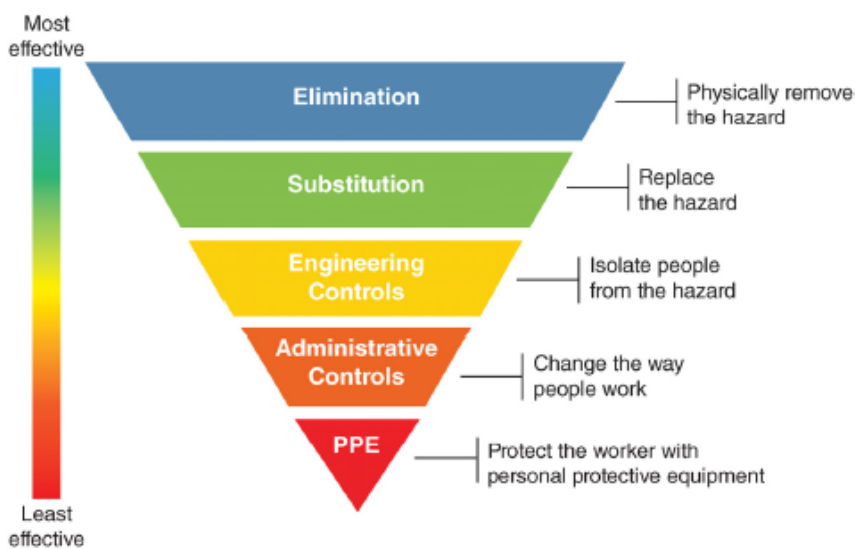


FIGURE 1: HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

SOURCE: NIOSH 2018

**Elimination:** Refrain from reporting to work if experiencing symptoms or defer construction activities

**Substitution:** None, unless deferring construction to a later date when public health measures are not required

**Engineering Controls:** 2 metre (or 6 feet) separation through physical distancing or erected physical barriers; convenient hand hygiene access, use of high-efficiency air filters; increased ventilation rates; etc

**Administrative Controls:** Fitness for Work Assessments, limiting in-person meetings to essential personnel, utilizing technology to connect remotely, implementing electronic signatures, revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Safe Work Practices (SWPs), Safe Job Procedures (SJPs), training on revised SOPs and SWPs and SJPs, training on the donning and doffing of PPE, workplace inspections and audits to assess compliance with control measures, etc

**PPE:** If the task is deemed essential & physical distancing unable to maintained, the use of additional PPE will be necessary. With the diversion of scarce N95 respirators to healthcare, the use of half or full face piece respirators may be required. In addition, other PPE such as construction face shields (hard hat connection style) with goggles or spoggles or 1/2 face Air Purifying Respirators (APR's) respirator with goggles or spoggles may be necessary. **NEW: KN95 are now also a viable option.**

A risk evaluation should be done to ensure the appropriate level of PPE is selected for all risks associated with the task if all other controls have been exhausted.

## SAFETY BEFORE, DURING & AFTER WORK

### ABOUT COVID-19

In a nutshell, human coronaviruses i.e. COVID-19 cause infections of the nose, throat and lungs. They are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze
- close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands

Current evidence suggests person-to-person spread is most successful when there is close contact. Infected individuals will respond differently to the infection depending on a number of factors including age and overall health.

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against this novel coronavirus. However, there are simple and effective measures that each person can do to stay healthy and prevent the spread of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19.

### FITNESS FOR WORK

Those who have COVID-19 infection may have little to no symptoms. You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 infection because they are similar to a cold or flu and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus. Symptoms have included:

- fever
- new or worsening cough
- difficulty breathing
- sore throat
- headaches

In severe cases, infection can lead to pneumonia in both lungs and hospitalization. Unfortunately, COVID-19 infections have resulted in death.

**If YOU HAVE travelled, the Province of Nova Scotia, under the authority of the *Health Protection Act*, is requiring anyone who has travelled outside Nova Scotia to self-isolate for 14 days from the day they get back to the province, even if they do not have symptoms.**

## Recommendations:

- All construction workers should be aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection:
  - <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-eng.pdf>
- Workers must follow the mandatory self-isolation requirements as outlined under the *Health Protection Act* after travel outside of Nova Scotia if they have had contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Workers should NOT REPORT FOR WORK if experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 infection
- If any worker develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must reduce contact with others immediately:
  - stay home and self-isolate for 14 days
  - if you live in a home with others, stay in a separate room or maintain a two metre distance
  - clean frequently touched surfaces often (such as taps, handles, doorknobs, light switch plates, phones, keyboards, etc.)
  - practice frequent hand hygiene
  - If your symptoms worsen and you feel you need medical attention, call the Nova Scotia 811 line for direction. They may direct you to a COVID-19 Assessment Centre for a physical assessment and possible testing. If you are having difficulty breathing, call 911
- Site Supervisor or designate (e.g. Health & Safety) should conduct a *Site Access Questionnaire-Daily Check in* for each worker prior to admission to the work site
  - Build Right Nova Scotia has developed one for use:  
[https://www.builtrightns.ca/documents/BRNS\\_site\\_access\\_questionnaire\\_daily\\_check\\_in\\_form.pdf](https://www.builtrightns.ca/documents/BRNS_site_access_questionnaire_daily_check_in_form.pdf)

## HAND HYGIENE

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The single most effective measure of preventing infection is to practice good hand hygiene. Hands should be cleaned often, using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, particularly:

- before and after preparing or eating food
- after handling waste, dirty laundry or bathroom use
- whenever hands look dirty and
- after touching frequently touched surfaces in public areas i.e. touch pads, door handles, gas pumps, handling money, using handrails, phones, etc.

Washing with soap and water is preferred – rubbing hands together for 30 secs removes visible dirt and germs. Use disposable paper towels (preferred) for drying hands, or a reusable towel that is laundered often when at home. If soap and water aren't available (and your hands aren't visibly dirty), use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Use enough to cover the fronts and backs of both hands and between all fingers, rubbing hands together until they feel dry. It is important to note that hand sanitizer may be in short supply during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand wipes are also helpful if hands are visibly soiled or if hand sanitizer is not available.

In addition to good hand hygiene, avoiding hand to eye, nose and mouth contact is essential as these are areas that can provide entry for the virus. This is why prevention strategies are targeted at keeping hands clean and away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.

With worldwide shortages in alcohol-based hand sanitizer, particularly from the popular manufacturers we are used to seeing available in stores for public use, some companies have been enabled to manufacture product based on WHO formulation: [https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide\\_to\\_Local\\_Production.pdf](https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide_to_Local_Production.pdf)

### **Recommendations:**

- Everyone must clean their hands prior to entering job site
- Hands should be cleaned frequently especially when work gloves are removed, prior to eating, when hands are visibly soiled and at end of work shift
- Adequate hand-washing facilities should be provided on site for all workers.
- Hand washing facilities should be visible and easily accessed. Signage can be posted on the site noting the location and how-to instructions. Examples of signage:
  - Public Health Agency of Canada- <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases-maladies/reduce-spread-covid-19-wash-your-hands/eng-handwashing.pdf>
  - Nova Scotia Department of Health- <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/Hand-Washing-Poster.pdf>
- Washing with soap and water is preferred. Hands should be dried with paper towels
- Disposable towels should be used on door handles when exiting washroom & portable toilet to prevent recontamination of hands.
  - Garbage cans should be located in strategic locations (e.g. immediately outside of washroom entrance & portable toilet to allow for disposal of paper towel)
- Provide hand sanitizer, if available, and place near entry points to the project and at various high-traffic locations.
- To improve access to soap and water, portable hand wash facilities may be utilized on the job site. It is recommended that single basin portable sinks be utilized to support social distancing practices (See Figure 2)



FIGURE 2: EXAMPLE OF PORTABLE SINGLE HAND HYGIENE BASIN



## RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

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Respiratory or cough etiquette are those practices used by individuals to prevent dissemination of respiratory secretions. Providing signage will be helpful as a reminder:

<https://www.ccohs.ca/products/posters/pdfs/Preventspread.pdf>

### **Recommendations:**

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose used tissues immediately in the garbage and wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If you don't have a tissue, cough and sneeze into your elbow, not your hand!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and forego handshakes opting instead for verbal greeting and a smile from two meters away!

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

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If not contained, droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, or even talking have the ability to spread out up to a distance of two meters. This is the rationale around physical distancing (See Figure 3).

It is extremely important to maintain this 2 metre separation when you are out in the community as well **as when you are on the job site**, even if you think your coworkers look well and whether you are inside a job trailer or out in an open air construction site. There is evidence of transmission with subtle or undetectable symptoms in the early phase of the infection and diligently adhering to physical distancing principles will help to mitigate that opportunity for transmission.

FIGURE 3: DROPLETS BEING SPREAD WITHIN A TWO METRE DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE



Job sites that are large enough may be able to easily accommodate the 2 metre separation requirement to continue to operate. If there are areas that cannot accommodate this, then other mechanisms need to be employed to get work completed.

### **Recommendations:**

- Both construction work and in-person meetings should be organized so that physical distancing can be maintained at all times
- In-person meetings and toolbox talks should be limited to five or fewer persons. If needed, conduct multiple meetings with smaller groups to avoid gathering everyone at the same place at the same time
- Stagger breaks and lunch times to reduce the number of people gathering at the same time.
- Post signage reminding workers to maintain physical distance

- Signage available from Nova Scotia Government  
[https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/Social\\_Distancing\\_poster.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/Social_Distancing_poster.pdf)
- If physical distancing is not possible for safety reasons, refer to *Algorithm in COVID-19 Recommendations for Safe Work Practices* in the Nova Scotia Construction Industry (Appendix B)
  - First, consider whether the task is truly essential- Can it be delayed? Can it be done safely in another way? Can the numbers of workers involved be reduced?
  - If the task is essential and cannot be delayed, all workers who cannot maintain a physical distance of 2 meters, needs to wear a fit-tested half-face respirator with safety glasses or a full face respirator (or alternate if available refer to *Personal Protective Equipment* below for details)

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It should be understood that COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplet and contact with contaminated surfaces. Healthcare settings rely on an adequate supply of surgical masks and N95 respirators to continue to provide safe care to patients. As such, this tool kit will not be recommending use of surgical masks or N95 respirators as it relates to protecting construction personnel from infection. The end goal is to avoid depleting the already scarce supply of masks & N95 respirators that are needed for critical healthcare procedures. **It is acknowledged that the recommended respiratory protection described below is overprotective for mitigating risk of infection.**



While the preference is to divert surgical mask and N95 respirator supply to the healthcare system, it is recognized that companies may have already procured and have in inventory a supply of masks and/or N95 respirators. It is the prerogative of the company to decide how they choose to deploy those resources. From solely a transmission-based perspective, surgical masks provide the recommended level of protection against COVID-19 **in the healthcare setting** and would be more than adequate on a construction site. Even in healthcare, the

use of N95 respirators is limited to staff engaged in high risk invasive procedures that may elevate the mode of transmission from droplet spread to airborne spread. Thus, **for infection prevention reasons only**, on a construction site, the protection afforded by wearing an N95 respirator is overprotective.

If the company opts to utilize a current inventory of surgical masks or N95 respirators (for infection prevention) for tasks whereby the workers cannot maintain a 2 metre separation, there are important steps that should be taken to minimize self-contamination when donning & doffing. Users of N95 respirators must be trained, fit tested and perform seal checks each time a respirator is donned. In each case, some degree of eye protection will also be required and can be accomplished in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, face shields that are designed for hard hats.

**NEW:** KN95's from China have been approved for use in Nova Scotia. They will not be used by the health care system and so use of these will not divert supply from the health care system. However, **great caution must be exercised if choosing this alternative as there are many fraudulent products** in the market. (please see appendix with the FDA approved manufacturers).

Overall, decisions about the type of personal protective equipment used for construction activities is based on the risk of the task (Figure 4). Regular decision-making on selection of PPE on a construction site will remain in situ, with the exception of, the level of respiratory protection when workers are unable to maintain the recommended physical distancing of 2 meters. The required respiratory protection has been described under *Physical Distancing* and these respirators along with recommendations for how to manage PPE on the job site is described below.

**High Risk** – Working in a Confined Space requiring workers to work within 2 metres (6 ft). Emergence rescue available as required by the OH&S



**Low Risk** – Workers installing a window from the outside of a building using a swing stage for access.

Tasks can be rated from low risk to high risk. Risk of the task will include risk assessments associated with that same task both before the threat of spreading COVID -19 and after to ensure full protection of workers and the full scope of tasks.

**FIGURE 4: PPE SELECTION MATRIX BASED ON RISK PPE OPTIONS**

- 1) **Half face piece APR Respirator** (used with appropriate filter i.e. P100 particulate filter or equivalent) can be utilized for instances where essential work must be completed and the 2 metre distancing is unachievable. A face shield or three-sided goggles or spoggles be used in addition to the half face piece respirator to protect eyes.

This **respirator provides more-than-required respiratory protection**. They are reusable and require fit testing. These are tight fitting and the user must be trained by a competent person on how to use, maintain and clean the respirator as required by occupational health and safety, the manufacturer’s instructions for use and the governing CSA Standard (See Figure 5). This respirator should not divert from healthcare and is used very frequently in the construction industry.



**FIGURE 5: HALF FACE PIECE RESPIRATOR**

- 2) **Full face respirators** offer similar respiratory protector but negate the need for a separate face shield. This respirator (Figure 6) provides more-than-required respiratory protection. They are reusable and require fit testing. These are tight fitting and the user must be trained by a competent person on how to use, maintain and clean the respirator as required by occupational health and safety, the manufacturer's instructions for use and the governing CSA Standard.

FIGURE 6: FULL FACE RESPIRATOR



Fit testing will be performed as required by Personal Protective Equipment, Respiratory Hazard section of the NS General Regulations and the referenced CSA Standard, CSA Standards CSA-Z94.4-18. (*Selection Use and Care of Respirators*) or the latest version of this standard.

Prior to initial use, and every 24 months, the respirator wearer is required to have a respirator fit test for any tight fitting  $\frac{1}{2}$  face piece or full-face piece tight fitting respirator. Fit testing can be qualitative or quantitative as long it is recorded and performed by a competent person. Prior to fit testing, users must be instructed on use, care and maintenance of the respirator they are being tested for. Users must be instructed on how to perform field checks, both positive and negative, to ensure a tight seal prior to each use. Filter selection is the responsibility of the employer and needs to be based on the risk assessment of the task being performed.

### **Recommendations:**

- If possible, find alternative means to complete a task that typically requires more than one worker and working within the prescribed 2 metre physical separation. If work is not essential, consider deferment
- If work is deemed essential, please refer to algorithm **Safe Work Practices** (Appendix B) to guide decision making with the expectation of donning either a half face piece respirator with three-sided goggles or full face shield OR a full face piece respirator that each worker has already been fit tested for
- Workers should be trained by a competent person on how to use (don & doff), maintain and clean/disinfect the respirator as required by occupational health and safety, the manufacturer's instructions for use and the governing CSA Standard
- A clean, disposable clear bag should be used to store used respirators until they are able to be cleaned, disinfected and checked for damage
- Clean and disinfect reusable goggles and face shields

- If using reusable coveralls, also store these in clean, disposable, clear bag until they can be freshly laundered after a day's use. Do not wear fabric coveralls home
- If fabric coveralls are not used, change into clean clothes prior to returning home; bring work clothes home in a disposable bag for laundering

## CLEANING & DISINFECTION

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Regular cleaning of the worksite's frequently touched hard surfaces and equipment is important. Frequency of cleaning is entirely dependent on how regularly used or touched a surface or item is but minimally, once a day cleaning with a disinfectant that has a claim on the label is necessary.

Properly clean/ disinfect your offices, trailers, containers, workshops and other facilities. Examples of surfaces that should be cleaned daily include equipment cabinets, planning boards, remotes, battery chargers, and shared tools. Some examples of frequently touched surfaces include:

- Doorknobs and push bars
- Coffee makers
- Shared radios and phones ; as much as possible, phones should be dedicated to one user
- Handrails
- Toilet flush handles
- Chemical toilets; you should also place portable hand wash stations or hand sanitizers outside the door
- Refrigerator door handles
- Trailer/meeting room surfaces (for example, tabletops, chairs, PC cables, markers) and telephones
- Elevator buttons
- Copiers and fax machines
- Some keyboards, offices, heavy equipment controls, mobile phones, and small personal tools are frequently used only by one or two people; therefore, they may be cleaned less often.

Active ingredients to look for, alone or in combination, in a selected cleaning product include, but are not limited to, sodium hypochlorite, quaternary ammonium, hydrogen peroxide, citric acid, and phenol. A more comprehensive list of EPA-registered products suitable for COVID-19 are listed here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Diligent attention should be paid to the Instructions for Use to ensure that it is either reconstituted properly or the manufacturer has indicated it's ready to use (RTU). As well, each product will have a required wet contact time to ensure adequate time for the product, when applied to a surface, has elapsed to achieve disinfection.

### **Recommendations:**

- Regular cleaning of the worksite's frequently touched surfaces and equipment should occur at least once a day but it is strongly suggested that this frequency increase, particularly for heavily used items and surfaces
- Implement the use of Clean-Up Logs for the Washroom facilities and Lunchroom (Examples available on the Build Right Nova Scotia website- <https://www.buildrightns.ca/>)
- Water fountains should be decommissioned or covered up with a *Do Not Use* sign attached. Hydration is important and it's recommended that bottled water or covered water bottles filled from home are utilized in absence of water fountains

- Use an effective cleaner / disinfectant product and ensure appropriate dilution ratios (if not a ready-to-use formulation), appropriate PPE for usage, and adequate wet contact time all as per the manufacturer's instructions for use

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

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During these unprecedented times, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information through media and other sources.

Reliable and accessible communication, including maintaining toolbox talks, availability of resources for workers outlining safe practices (Appendix C), and respecting that others may have concerns and anxieties around pandemic challenges all serve to support mental well-being at home and on the job site.

### **Tips for after hours:**

- Take breaks from news and social media to avoid information overload
- Connect with others (not in person!) and talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling
- Take care of yourself by eating healthy, being active indoors or in your yard, get plenty of sleep and avoid drugs & alcohol
- Make time for yourself and try to do some activities that you enjoy i.e. reading, gardening, working out at home, spring cleaning, painting, meditation, yoga, BBQ, trying out a new recipe, practicing golf swings in the backyard, play guitar, watch a movie!

**These measures help support you and others in our community.  
We are all in this together.**

## APPENDIX A: LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS

### STATE OF EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH POWERS

#### ORDER BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UNDER SECTION 32 of the HEALTH PROTECTION ACT 2004, c. 4, s. 1.

6. All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia **must maintain social distancing of two metres or six feet** and keep social gatherings to 5 persons or less.
7. Subject to specific closures or limitations directed elsewhere in this Order, **all not-for profit and for-profit businesses and organizations** operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia **may continue to operate but must implement social distancing of two metres or six feet within these workplaces.**
8. Subject to specific closures or limitations directed elsewhere in this Order, any not-for profit or for-profit business or organization carrying on business in Nova Scotia that cannot, due to its physical size, maintain the social distancing requirement set out in Clause 7 must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 5 persons at a time.
9. For greater clarity, **the 5-person rule referred to in Clause 8 does not apply to:** (a.) businesses and organizations who can maintain social distancing requirements, including without limitation, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, **construction sites**, financial institutions, and agrifood and fish plants.
24. Failure to comply with this health protection order may be considered a breach of this Order issued under the Health Protection Act and may result in penalties under the Act.
25. Any direction provided by a medical officer of health to a person, business, organization or other entity pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms and conditions of this Order must be followed.

#### Employers' precautions and duties

- 13 (1) Every employer shall take every precaution that is reasonable in the circumstances to
- (a) ensure the health and safety of persons at or near the workplace;
  - (c) provide such information, instruction, training, supervision and facilities as are necessary to the health or safety of the employees;
  - (d) ensure that the employees, and particularly the supervisors and foremen, are made familiar with any health or safety hazards that may be met by them at the workplace;
  - (e) ensure that the employees are made familiar with the proper use of all devices, equipment and clothing required for their protection; and
  - (f) conduct the employer's undertaking so that employees are not exposed to health or safety hazards as a result of the undertaking.

#### Employees' precautions and duties

- 17 (1) Every employee, while at work, shall
- (a) take every reasonable precaution in the circumstances to protect the employee's own health and safety and that of other persons at or near the workplace;
  - (b) co-operate with the employer and with the employee's fellow employees to protect the employee's own health and safety and that of other persons at or near the workplace;

- (c) take every reasonable precaution in the circumstances to ensure that protective devices, equipment or clothing required by the employer, this Act or the regulations are used or worn;

(2) Where an employee believes that any condition, device, equipment, machine, material or thing or any aspect of the workplace is or may be dangerous to the employee's health or safety or that of any other person at the workplace, the employee shall

- (a) immediately report it to a supervisor;
- (b) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction, report it to the committee or the representative, if any; and
- (c) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction after the employee reports in accordance with clauses (a) and (b), report it to the Division. 1996, c.7, s. 17

## **Right to refuse work and consequences of refusal**

43 (1) Any employee may refuse to do any act at the employee's place of employment where the employee has reasonable grounds for believing that the act is likely to endanger the employee's health or safety or the health or safety of any other person until

- (a) the employer has taken remedial action to the satisfaction of the employee;
- (b) the committee, if any, has investigated the matter and unanimously advised the employee to return to work; or
- (c) an officer has investigated the matter and has advised the employee to return to work.

(2) Where an employee exercises the employee's right to refuse to work pursuant to subsection (1), the employee shall

- (a) immediately report it to a supervisor;
- (b) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction, report it to the committee or the representative, if any; and
- (c) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction after the employee has reported pursuant to clauses (a) and (b), report it to the Division.

## **Use of personal protective equipment**

9 (1) An employer shall ensure that adequate personal protective equipment or devices required for an assigned task are used, based on

- (a) the nature of the task;
- (b) the location and conditions of the workplace; and
- (c) any hazards that may affect the health and safety of persons in the workplace.

### **Clause 9(1)(c) amended: O.I.C. 2013-65, N.S. Reg. 53/2013.**

(2) Where personal protective equipment or devices are required under the Act or these regulations, an employer shall ensure that

- (a) an employee receives adequate training in the proper use and care of the personal protective equipment or devices; and
- (b) an employee wears or uses the personal protective equipment or devices in accordance with the instruction and training provided.

(3) An employer shall ensure that all personal protective equipment or devices required under the Act or these regulations are

- (a) maintained by a competent person; and
- (b) tested or visually inspected before each use, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.



- (4) Where a person identifies any defect in personal protective equipment or devices that may impair the adequacy of the equipment or devices, the employer shall ensure that the personal protective equipment or devices are not used until they are repaired.

**Section 9 replaced: O.I.C. 2000-130, N.S. Reg. 52/2000.**

**9A** An employee shall wear or use personal protective equipment or devices as required under clause 9(2)(b).

**Section 9A added: O.I.C. 2000-130, N.S. Reg. 52/2000.**

### **Respiratory hazard**

- 13 (1) Where a person is exposed to a respiratory hazard that may cause injury or disease, an employer shall provide and ensure the use of an adequate respirator that is appropriate to the hazard.

**Subsection 13(1) amended: O.I.C. 2013-65, N.S. Reg. 53/2013.**

- (2) An employer shall ensure that the compressed breathing air used in a respirator complies with or exceeds the latest version of CSA standard CAN3-Z180.1, "Compressed Breathing Air and Systems".

**Subsection 13(2) amended: O.I.C. 2013-65, N.S. Reg. 53/2013.**

- (3) An employer shall ensure compliance with the latest version of CSA standard CSA Z94.4, "Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators", in respect of
  - (a) the selection, use, maintenance and testing of a respirator; and
  - (b) the training of users of a respirator

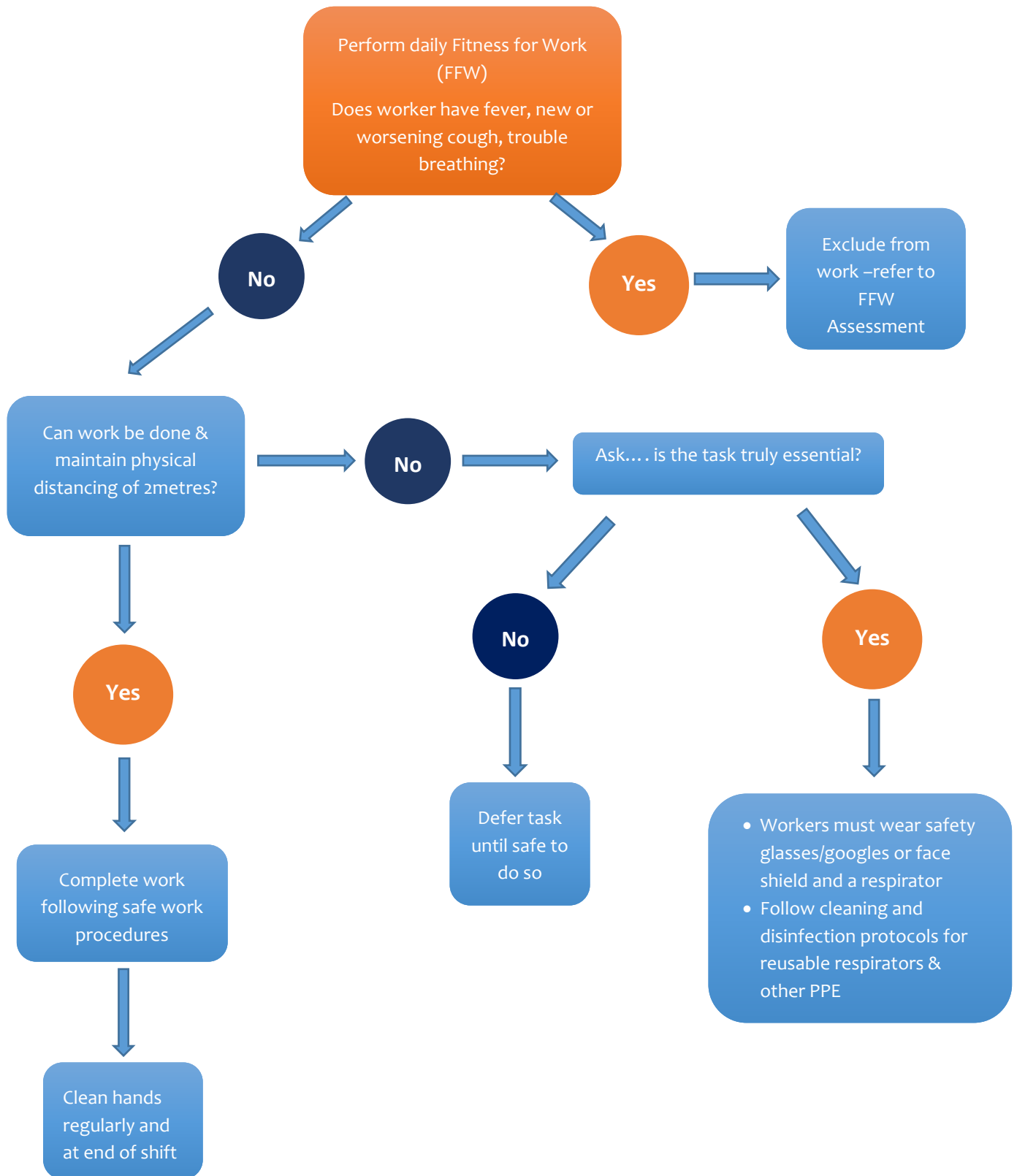
**Subsection 13(3) added: O.I.C. 2000-130, N.S. Reg. 52/2000; amended: O.I.C. 2013-65, N.S. Reg. 53/2013.**

**Subsection 13(4) added: O.I.C. 2000-130, N.S. Reg. 52/2000; repealed: O.I.C. 2013-65, N.S. Reg. 53/2013.**

### **Hand-cleaning facilities**

- 20 (1) Where the workplace has running water, an employer shall provide a wash basin or equivalent hand-cleaning facility in a room with 1 toilet and sufficient additional wash basins or equivalent hand-cleaning facilities in the room for additional toilets or urinals.
- (2) Where the workplace does not have running water and toilet facilities are provided, an employer shall provide hand-cleaning facilities or supplies.
- (3) An employer shall provide a hand-cleaning facility and supplies as close to any toilet as is reasonably practicable.

# Safe Work Practices Algorithm



## COVID-19- PREVENTION AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN NOVA SCOTIA

### Ensuring a safe workplace:

- 1) Conduct a risk assessment of the work site/location to identify conditions or tasks that increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and put measures in place to mitigate risks.
- 2) Continue to evaluate any controls put in place and revise/implement alternate solutions as necessary.
- 3) Ensure workers do not come to work when they are feeling ill and have symptoms of a respiratory illness such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing. Post signage reminding all workers to self-screen for symptoms and exposures every day.
- 4) As per the order from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, workers should maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from other individuals within the job site/work place.

### Basic Worksite Protocols:

- Both construction work and in-person meetings should be organized so that social and physical distancing can be maintained.
  - If physical distancing is not possible for safety reasons, refer to *Algorithm in COVID-19 Tool Kit for Safe Work Practices in the Nova Scotia Construction Industry*
- In-person meetings and toolbox talks should be limited to five or fewer persons. If needed, conduct multiple meetings with smaller groups to avoid gathering everyone at the same place at the same time and maintain 2 metres separation
- Stagger breaks and lunch times to reduce the number of people gathering at the same time.

### Hand Hygiene:

- Perform hand hygiene prior to entering job site, whenever work gloves are removed, prior to eating, when hands are visibly soiled and at end of work shift.
- Providing adequate hand hygiene facilities on site for all workers and ensuring their location is visible and easily accessed
- Washing with soap and water and drying is preferred. Dry with disposable towels.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if available, and place near entry points to the project and at various high-traffic locations.
- Post signage on how to hand wash or clean hands with hand sanitizer, as applicable.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Workers should wear their regular personal protective equipment on the worksite.
- Do NOT share PPE.
- Clean and disinfect reusable equipment as per manufacturer's guidance.
- Gloves should be washed daily. Workers should have access to several pairs.
- If work is deemed essential and workers are unable to maintain 2metre separation, additional respiratory protection is necessary (Refer to *COVID-19 Tool Kit for Safe Work Practices in the Nova Scotia Construction Industry*)
- Do not store personal gear such as jackets, vests and rain gear on-site.

### Additional Cleaning Protocols

- Properly clean and disinfect offices, trailers, containers, workshops and other facilities. Examples of surfaces that should be cleaned daily include equipment cabinets, planning boards, remotes, battery chargers, and shared tools.
- Before each work day or shift, frequently touched surfaces-
  - These include: door knobs/push bars, coffee makers and water fountains, shared radios and phones, handrails, toileting facilities, refrigerator door handles, trailer/meeting room surfaces (e.g. table tops, chairs, PC cables, markers) and telephones, elevator buttons, copiers and fax machines.



## APPENDIX D: KN95 FDA APPROVED SUPPLIERS

<https://www.fda.gov/media/136663/download>