



COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols for Field Workers

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1. Introduction

Tripoint Geological Services is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all its employees. All employees are required to follow COVID-19 infection prevention guidance and directives as updated by federal, regional, and provincial authorities in respect to general and site-specific protocols. Tripoint employees will adhere to the following guidelines, or those set out by the Client.

Employees will be provided with a copy of this document prior to traveling to a work site. In addition, on-site training, and documentation of training will be provided on the first day of work and on a regular basis after that. This training will be conducted or overseen by a designated infection prevention and control coordinator and will include safety measures and procedures, physical distancing, proper hygiene practices, and monitoring and reporting illness.

The Tripoint Covid19 Coordinator is: Darcy Vis

2. Travel to Site

Prior to traveling, all employees must do a self-evaluation which should include:

(<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>)

Symptoms of Covid-19 may include but are not limited to:

- Cough and/or sneezing
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Loss of appetite
- Chills
- Runny nose
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THESE SYMPTONS DO NOT COME TO WORK AND LET THE COORDINATOR KNOW IMMEDIATELY

2.1. Vehicular Travel

Employees will be assigned a work unit or pod of no more than 5 people to minimize contact with others in situations where social distancing is not possible. To reduce contact employees will:

- Where possible limit a single driver in a conventional truck (i.e., single cab)
- Maintain airflow in the cab by opening windows or using the air-conditioning system to introduce outside air
- Avoid recirculating air
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after travel
- High touch areas will be disinfected using an alcohol-based cleaner or disinfecting wipes/sprays and paper towel. Key contact points are:
 - Door handles (inside and out)
 - Window buttons
 - Steering wheel and controls
 - Wiper and turn signal handle
 - Shifter
 - Dash controls and buttons
 - Ventilation grilles and knobs
 - Rear-view mirror
 - Armrests
 - Grab handles, seat adjusters
 - Seat belt buckle
 - Radio and communication devices

If employees are traveling in a third-party vehicle, such as a helicopter, employees will observe the protocols as dictated by the operator.

2.2. Stopovers

COVID-19 is an easily transmitted disease so extra care must be taken to protect everyone from infection.

When travel observe the following:

- Avoid areas where you are unable to achieve social distancing
- When refueling a vehicle, use a barrier between your hands and all touch points
- Disinfect payment card after use
- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands with soap and water immediately after refueling
- Avoid high touch surfaces such as door handles
- Avoid touching your face
- When stopping for food look for locations that are practicing social distancing and safe food preparation/handling practices
- Utilize curbside pick up for groceries and other field supplies. If this is not possible, designate one person per group to shop

3. Camp Facilities

Industrial camps or work camps are places where people are employed and accommodated on site. Protocols cannot address all the circumstances that may put an employee, contractor, or client at risk of contracting COVID-19, however steps can help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

All camps will have a dedicated coordinator who will oversee the implementation and maintenance of COVID-19 protocols. The coordinator will post signage promoting physical distance as well as signs encouraging hand hygiene.

3.1. Employee Education

Site specific protocols will be discussed and documented. Employees will be briefed on hygiene practices, location of hygiene stations and educated on measures to prevent infection and transmission. These include:

- Maintaining a safe social distance of at least 2m when possible
- Handwashing stations with soap and water for employees in the camp
- Soap and water hand-washing stations will be supplemented with waterless hand sanitizers with a minimum 60% alcohol where appropriate
- Employee will be provided with hand sanitizer for personal use in the field
- Sanitizing hands periodically throughout the day and especially before and after food or snack breaks
- Sanitizing hands before entering a vehicle, including helicopters
- When physical distancing is not possible, having the option of wearing a nonsurgical mask to reduce the spread of airborne droplets

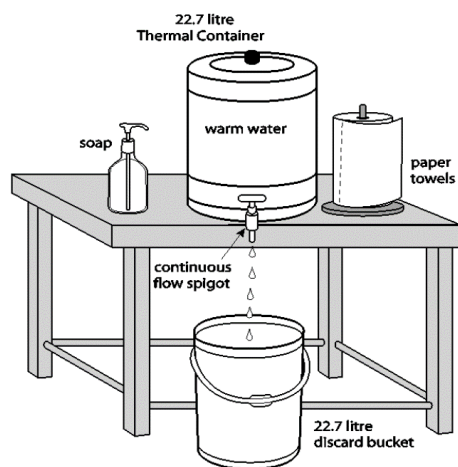


Figure 1: Suggested handwashing station - source *Guidelines for Silviculture worker Camps During the COVID-19 Pandemic April 22, 2020*

3.2. Accommodations

Shared accommodations will be arranged in such a fashion that beds are at least 2m apart and head-to-toe where possible. If beds cannot be at least 2m apart, the use of temporary barriers between beds, such as curtains, to prevent droplet spread while sleeping, will be used. Any high touch areas should be cleaned regularly.

3.3. Food handling

As food handling and preparation represents a potential transmission point of COVID-19 all employees must wash their hands immediately prior to undertaking food preparation or prior to meals. In addition:

- Do not share food
- Do not share unwashed plates, cups, or utensils
- Disposable dishware is NOT required for COVID-19

When cleaning, a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and that it is effective against viruses will be used. If such products are unavailable a bleach and water solution with 500 parts per million chlorine solution: 1:100 [e.g. mix 10 ml household bleach (5.25%) with 990 ml water] can be used. When using the bleach and water solution, the surface must remain wet for at least one minute. For more information, please see the BCCDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting for Public Settings in Appendix B.

3.4. Tools and Equipment

Where possible, each employee should be supplied with, or supply their own tools for use in the field. When this is not possible employees will:

- Receive training on cleaning tools
- Wiped down and clean tools with a disinfecting agent such as disposable wipes or a diluted bleach solution (while wearing rubber gloves) at the end of each shift in a well-ventilated area
- Not share PPE with other employees – this equipment will be labeled with the name of the employee and will be their responsibility to keep track of

Employees who wear gloves as hand protection during work may share tools and equipment without disinfecting the tools between each user and must continue to clean and wash hands to break the chain of infection. Work gloves may have droplets on them and could transmit infection to another worker. Gloves must be labeled to ensure each pair remains with one employee.

4. Monitoring for Illness

While at work, employees must monitor their symptoms daily for common cold or influenza like illness or symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and **must notify the coordinator immediately** if they exhibit such symptoms. If an employee becomes ill with COVID-19 like symptoms they will be provided access to support

for COVID-19 (i.e. 8-1-1) and local Medical Health Officers will be notified by the coordinator. Appropriate next steps (i.e. leave the work site and self isolate or isolate while on site) will be taken with advice from local health authorities, do not travel to local health care facilities until the coordinator and the Health Officers provide direction.

The symptoms, list of contacts, and timeline will be documented by the Covid19 Coordinator.

4.1. First Nations and First Nations Health Centres

Indigenous populations face heightened health risks due to lower health outcomes compared with non-Indigenous Canadians. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations disproportionately face health disparities linked to the social determinants of health (i.e. social, economic, cultural, political inequities). As such, all employees must respect any precautions being taken to avoid carrying this virus into First Nations communities.

When travelling to or established near a First Nations community, employees must connect with regional health authorities to be advised of any current precautions being taken in the region.

BC Centre for Disease Control and Ministry of Health recommended that individuals employed in remote areas do not seek medical care from a local First Nations health center as there are inadequate resources to sustain an influx of external cases.

If an employee who is symptomatic wishes to return to their home in a First Nation community, the First Nation health center should be notified to determine that sufficient resources are in place to support isolation of the individual on arrival.

Approved By



Darcy Vis, September 9, 2020

Revisions

Revision #	Revision By	Revision Date	Comments
0	Katie Dodd	May 21, 2020	Document Created
1	Darcy Vis	9/9/2020	Updated to current standards

References

Protecting Workers, Contractors, and Employers Working in the Natural Resource Sector During the COVID-19 Pandemic May 13, 2020

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-natural-resource-sector-work-camps.pdf>

Protecting Employees, Contractors, and Employers Working in the Silviculture Sector During the COVID-19 Pandemic April 22, 2020

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-work-camps-silviculture.pdf>

Protecting Workers at Large Industrial Camps During the COVID-19 Pandemic April 28, 2020

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-large-industrial-work-camps.pdf>

Protecting BC farmers and farm workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-farms-farm-workers.pdf>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Appendix A

Provincial Health Order – Industrial Camps – April 23, 2020

Appendix B

BC Centre for Disease Control Camp Signage