

COVID-19

Guidance for External Contractors in Long-Term Care and Assisted Living during COVID-19 Restrictions

In order to protect staff and resident/tenants/clients, as well as external contractors, the following is guidance on arranging for essential work by an external contractor during COVID-19 restrictions.

- External contracting is limited to essential work only. Essential is defined as regular maintenance or unplanned repairs that are required to ensure the continued safe operation of the building and equipment (e.g.: heating repairs, sprinkler testing, elevator maintenance, food preparation repairs, etc).
- New and active projects may continue.
- An appropriate safety plan (as per precautions below) is in place to manage health hazard risks before any maintenance worker accesses the site to complete required work.
- Non-essential work (painting, cosmetic upgrades, etc) may be delayed until after COVID restrictions (eg essential visitor policy) are lifted.

Precautions for all sites:

- Prior to workers arriving, have them complete a self-assessment ([BC Self-Assessment Tools](#)) and confirm there is no need for them to self-isolate due to symptoms or contact with family members that may be ill.
- Maintain a list of workers visiting the site, including name of individual, date and time on site, location worked (e.g. third floor) and contact information.
- Advise worker(s) if the site is under COVID-19 outbreak precautions.
- Worker(s) to be met at door by a staff member, who is aware of necessary precautions, and confirms:
 - ✓ Each worker is assessed for symptoms before entering the site
 - ✓ Each worker has provided their name and contact information and this is recorded with dates worked
 - ✓ Each worker uses hand hygiene upon entering site
 - ✓ Each worker is provided a surgical/procedure mask and eye protection and wears it at all times in areas that may be accessed by clients. A worker may wear their own mask/respirator and eye protection as long as it provides equivalent protection as standard PPE. Each worker will be instructed on how to properly don and doff mask and eye-protection if needed
 - ✓ Each worker advised to wash hands frequently, follow respiratory etiquette and physical distancing. While working in an area not accessed by resident/tenant/clients, the worker can remove the mask/eye protection when alone. Provide workers with information on hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene
- Staff member escorts the worker to the work site via a route that minimizes contact with resident/tenant/clients.
- If work is in a resident/tenant/client room, resident/tenant/clients must be relocated prior to the work starting.
- If work is in a common area, arrangements must be made to relocate resident/tenant/clients from the common area prior to the worker attending. Access to this area should be blocked for the duration of the work.
- There is to be a designated washroom for use by the worker(s) If this is not possible, workers should use a staff-only washroom in the facility.
 - Clean work area, washroom and common touch surfaces each day before and after worker has completed work.

For additional information, please refer to Ministry of Health "Guidance to construction sites operating during COVID-19": <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0002-000542>