COVID-19 Advice for Workers and Employers

What should the response be?

Identify the hazard

Control the risk

Personal hygiene

Personal protective equipment

Handling sick or suspected cases of infection

Industrial and workplace hygiene

Other communications and education and training meetings can also be helpful

IndustriALL Global Union views occupational health and safety as a matter of workers' rights and moral authority to assess a risk are those who face the risks.

Any policies, programmes and procedures only work when they are followed. A protocol to represent workers' rights and moral authority to assess a risk are those who face the risks.

Within the workplace, internal systems must be in place. Joint Health and Safety Committees and trade union representatives should make sure that appropriate workplace policies, programmes and procedures have been enacted to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. Make sure that your workplace is in compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Whatever jurisdiction you work in, the law still applies. While the wording of laws and regulations in different jurisdictions can vary, the principles are the same. The World Health Organization, in its leaflet “Getting your Workplace Ready for COVID-19” (19 March 2020) has this to say about COVID-19:

COVID-19 is a new disease caused by a newly emerged virus called SARS-CoV-2.

Technically known as COVID-19, it is clearing the air around the world. It has been shown that transmission occurs primarily through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing.

Drying with paper towels is preferred to air-blow dryers which can disperse any remaining virus. Since it is impossible to eliminate or completely isolate the hazard in this case, since any threshold for transmission is difficult to determine.

If you notice symptoms while at home, stay home. Employers must have a plan to handle the situation of someone developing symptoms while at work. Working from home may experience stress due to social isolation. Workers must be kept whole in case of absence for illness; otherwise the risk is high that some will report for work even if ill, and spread the virus.

When exposure is suspected, note that at the time of writing, test kits are in short supply, but their availability is expected to increase. These are the symptoms most frequently noted by those who are infected. Knowing the symptoms is important to identify whether you, or a co-worker, may be at risk or a risk to others.

What is Novel Coronavirus COVID-19

What are the symptoms?

The most indicative symptoms of COVID-19 infection are fever and a new, continuous, dry cough. The World Health Organization, in its leaflet “Getting your Workplace Ready for COVID-19” (19 March 2020) states:

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If you observe any of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention. The symptoms can be mild, moderate, or severe depending on the extent of disease.

What should I do if I am suffering from COVID-19?

If you are suffering from COVID-19, you should seek medical attention. The following are the symptoms most frequently noted by those who are infected.

Most persons infected with COVID-19 experience mild to moderate symptoms and recover without needing special treatment.

COVID-19 is a new disease caused by a newly emerged virus called SARS-CoV-2.

The virus is transmitted in respiratory droplets and can be inactivated by disinfection. It is important to keep in mind that COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu.

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In a few weeks, everything has changed – and nothing has changed.

Infections by it follow principles that have been known for a long time.

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