

Minimising the risk of exposure to COVID-19 on Evans Built Construction Sites

OVERVIEW

Workers in the building and construction industry are at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Evans Built promotes the following control measures to protect workers and minimise the spread of COVID-19 on our construction sites and in our corporate offices.

Physical distancing

- ▶ Where possible keep a physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres between everyone on site. This is key to minimising the spread of COVID-19.
- ▶ Limit physical interactions between workers, workers and clients, and workers and other persons at the site (eg. Deliveries). Use other methods (mobile phone) to communicate.
- ▶ Limit worker numbers on site where possible.
- ▶ Split shifts to AM/PM where possible.
- ▶ Create specific walkways through the construction site to maintain physical separation.
- ▶ Stagger meal breaks to limit the number of workers congregating in one area. Spread out furniture in crib rooms.
- ▶ Conduct toolbox/safety meetings in wide open spaces to enable workers to maintain the required 1.5m physical distancing.
- ▶ Limit the number of workers in hoist/lifts/vehicles at any one time.
- ▶ Postpone non-essential training.
- ▶ Install signage around the site informing workers of physical distancing requirements.
- ▶ Manage any additional health and safety risks brought about by the physical distancing measures.

Health checks and quarantine

Workers (whether in the workplace or not) must report to their employer if:

- ▶ They are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever.
- ▶ They have been, or have potentially been, exposed to a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 (even if the person suspected to have COVID-19 has not yet been tested).
- ▶ They have undertaken, or are planning to undertake, any travel.

Workers are prohibited from Construction Sites if:

- ▶ They are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever.
- ▶ They have contracted COVID-19 and until they provide evidence they are clear of the virus.

Workers are encouraged to report if they observe another worker displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.

Hygiene

Environmental cleaning

Environmental cleaning is one way to remove COVID-19 particles from objects and surfaces on sites. Due to the nature of construction work requiring regular touching of objects and surfaces, regular cleaning regimes must be increased.

- ▶ Frequently touched surfaces on a construction site, including any plant, equipment, lifts, hoists, handrails and doors, should be cleaned frequently using appropriate detergent or disinfectant solutions.
- ▶ Site amenities, including lunch rooms, site offices, change rooms, toilets, showers, drink fountains and vending machines, should be cleaned industrially and the frequency of this cleaning should increase.
- ▶ To minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19, the person cleaning should wear gloves and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves. Gloves and hand sanitiser should be made available throughout the construction site.
- ▶ Workers should be trained to clean down plant or equipment immediately after use.
- ▶ Workplaces should consider limiting or reducing recirculated air-conditioning in common areas.

Worker hygiene

Workers are required to practice good hygiene, including:

- ▶ covering coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue.
- ▶ disposing of tissues properly.
- ▶ washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, including before and after eating and after going to the toilet.
- ▶ using alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
- ▶ cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- ▶ washing body, hair (including facial hair) and clothes thoroughly every day.
- ▶ staying more than 1.5 metres away from others.
- ▶ staying home if sick.

In addition, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, workers should also:

- ▶ avoid touching their face.
- ▶ avoid handshakes or any other close physical contact.
- ▶ refrain from spitting at all times.

Site Facilities

- ▶ Washroom facilities on construction sites should have adequate supplies for good hygiene, such as soap, water and toilet paper.
- ▶ Washroom facilities must be kept clean, properly stocked and in good working order.
- ▶ Construction sites should also be well stocked with alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- ▶ Consider reducing the number of touch points for workers (eg. Leaving access doors open where appropriate).
- ▶ Remind workers (posters, training, inductions) of the need to observe good hygiene when using common areas.

Deliveries and other contractors attending the workplace

- ▶ Non-essential visits to the workplace should be cancelled or postponed.
- ▶ Deliveries and other contractors who need to attend the workplace should be given clear instructions of your requirements while they are on site.
- ▶ Minimise the number of workers attending to deliveries and contractors as much as possible.
- ▶ Make alcohol-based hand sanitiser available for workers after physically handling deliveries.
- ▶ Direct visiting truck drivers to remain in vehicles and use contactless methods such as mobile phones to communicate with your workers wherever possible.
- ▶ Use, and ask deliveries and contractors to use, electronic paper work where possible, to minimise physical interaction.
- ▶ Where possible, set up alternatives to requiring signatures. For instance, see whether a confirmation email or a photo of the loaded or unloaded goods can be accepted as proof of delivery or collection (as applicable).

Keeping Workers Informed

- ▶ Workers should be provided with information about the risks of exposure to COVID-19.
- ▶ Posters, checklists and sign should be used to educate and inform workers about the risks and control measures for COVID-19.
- ▶ Remind workers they have a duty to take care of their own health and safety, and not to adversely affect the health and safety of others.
- ▶ Provide workers with a point of contact to discuss any concerns, and access support services or information.

Worker Consultation

- ▶ Workers should be consulted on WHS matters relating to COVID-19.
- ▶ Other duty holders on site should also be consulted.
- ▶ Workers are most likely to know about the risks of their work. Involving them will help build commitment to this ongoing process and any future changes, for minimising the spread of COVID-19.
- ▶ Communicate clearly with workers about control measures on sites.
- ▶ Provide clear direction and guidance about what is expected of workers.

Workers should know:

- ▶ when to stay away from the workplace.
- ▶ what action to take if they become unwell.
- ▶ what symptoms to be concerned about.

Minimising the risk of exposure to COVID-19 on Evans Built Construction Sites

SITE SPECIFIC CONTROL MEASURES

Evans Built has introduced the following site specific control measures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

Site Entry

- ▶ A conditional NO ENTRY sign is used to warn site attendees not to enter the site if experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, and the measures they must take if they are.

Coronavirus Checklist

- ▶ All site attendees are required to complete the Coronavirus Checklist prior to signing onto site.
- ▶ The Site Attendance Register has been modified to accommodate verification of the checklist process.
- ▶ The checklist questionnaire provides guidelines for symptoms/exposure risks and measure to take, including refusing site access if necessary.

Coronavirus Information

- ▶ A Coronavirus Information poster works in conjunction with the Checklist, reminding workers/visitors to complete the checklist and providing information on symptoms/hygiene practices.
Numerous industry body resources are being utilised to provide sites with up to date information, eg. Master Builders COVID-19 updates, information posters.

Site Safety Rules

- ▶ Evans Built Site Specific Safety Rules have been expanded to incorporate specific social distancing, hygiene and work practices on specific sites.
- ▶ These rules will be monitored and updated as health advices change during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Safe Work Method Statements

- ▶ Evans Built Subcontractors are required to provide SWMS which include task specific risk assessment and control measures for COVID-19 on Evans Built construction sites.

COVID-19 Incident Notification (QLD)

- ▶ Work Health Safety Queensland have advised that in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 then Queensland Health will be notified by the medical professional who confirms the diagnosis.
- ▶ WHSQ will not enforce any legislative requirement for workplaces to separately notify WHSQ, however WHSQ will continue to monitor potential non-compliance in the workplace and workers exposure to risk.
- ▶ Evans Built will continue to observe internal Incident Reporting procedures in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a worker.