



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

Infection Prevention and Control Protocol

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION

COVID-19 is a Reportable Disease

The local Medical Health Officer must be notified if there is an outbreak or suspicion of an outbreak.

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY NAME: **Northern Health Communicable Disease Hub**

PHONE: **1-855-565-2990** (during bus. hours) & **1-250-565-2000, press 7** (On-call medical health officer after hours)

EMAIL: CentralCDHUB@northernhealth.ca

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL PROTOCOL INSPECTION

DATE SCREENING SUBMITTED TO PHO: August 7, 2020 SUBMITTED VIA: online

FOLLOW UP BY: _____

PROTOCOL POSTED @ : **MAIN OFFICE, KITCHEN, NURSING / FIRST-AID STATION**

DATE INSPECTION CONDUCTED: AUGUST 19, 8AM

INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY: CAREY DEHOOG

ATTENDEES: BMCG & CD

NOTES: _____



IPC CO-ORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The IPC co-ordinator oversees the implementation of the IPC protocol, monitors the health of the workers, acts as a liaison between the employer and the health officer or the Provincial IPC officer, oversees the transportation of workers between their accommodation and worksite to limit the risk of transmission of virus, monitors compliance of workers with their requirements, informs the health officer or the Provincial IPC officer of failures to implement the Protocol, or compliance with the order.

IPC Co-ORDINATOR: **Brian McGrath** (cell @: 604-649-9510 email@: briant.mcgrath@yahoo.com)

* ALTERNATE (IF REQUIRED): Gil Graham (cell@ 778-863-9322)

- **All workers shall undergo forehead thermometer scans at the start of each shift**
 - Results will be catalogued confidentially and maintained securely in the field office for PHO inspection
- **All workers shall be contacted daily and asked if they are experiencing any COVID/flu like symptoms**
 - Results will be catalogued confidentially and maintained securely in the field office for PHO inspection

AND

- **All workers shall self-monitor and maintain a daily checklist outlining COVID-related health & wellness**

Employee Self-Monitoring

The IPC co-ordinator must be instructed on how to help workers complete self assessment tools to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The co-ordinator supports worker self-monitoring with information, advice and tools if available e.g. access to self-assessment app, thermometers. Co-ordinator facilitates liaison with medical support to help clarify uncertainties wrt symptoms and support/assist/facilitate testing and self-isolation of workers who may be ill. Co-ordinator alerts camp operator and health officer if notices apparent clusters of people who are ill with similar symptoms.

Confidentiality for Workers

Describe how privacy is maintained and respected for employees seeking healthcare who may be part of self-isolation, contact tracing, or outbreak investigation.

'MEDI-MISSION STATEMENT'

If a worker(s) is suspected of having or contracts COVID-19 their health, safety, wellness and right to privacy is paramount. The mission is to protect all worker(s) and the responders/care-givers trusted with providing all forms of medical assistance and record-keeping.

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

To maintain a high level of hygiene as outlined in the Order, workers must be trained on the **first day of work** and on a **regular basis** on hygiene, physical distancing and how to monitor and report illness. List the dates, times, or schedules you have arranged to have employees trained on COVID-19.

MEETING SCHEDULES

1. **1st Day of Work:** All camp workers will be educated on the disease, the company policies and procedures being implemented for the prevention and control of COVID-19. Plans include, but are not limited to, conducting open-air meeting(s), demonstrating physical distancing tactics, posting and understanding signage, educating staff on various monitoring/cleaning/prevention steps, issuing supplies and showing safety services at their disposal.
2. All new hires will be orientated individually as they arrive and before commencing any interaction/duties.
3. Weekly safety meetings are to be scheduled throughout the program.
4. Un-scripted meetings are anticipated (*esp.* as required by PHO, other agencies or when new info arises).

Employees' Right to Refuse Work

Unsafe Work

- 1.10.1** A person shall not carry out any work or operate any equipment, tool, or appliance if he/she has reasonable cause to believe that to do so would create an undue hazard to the health or safety of any person.
- 1.10.2** A supervisor shall not knowingly perform or permit a worker to perform work which is, or could create, an undue hazard to the health or safety of any person.

source: Health Safety & Reclamation Code for Mines in BC. Application of Code & General Rules (Part 1, page 1-11)

Describe the training you provided to employees on their first day of work and following this on a regular basis. Training materials must be available in the appropriate languages. Note: employees will need to be trained on good hygiene at the work site, where they are housed and during transportation; this is outlined in more detail below in the sections on accommodation and work site (including transportation) below.

TRAINING

- Training shall include: COVID-19 info and updates sessions; demonstrations of proper hygiene throughout the camp; effective hand-washing; best practices for coughing/sneezing; disinfecting shared surfaces; forehead thermometer usage; physical distancing at work and during transit; implementing pod-work groups; list of safety measures and supplies; and food safety, preparation and meals.
- Materials, info-references, education, signs & documents = **BC PHO, BC CDC, WORKSAFE BC, AMEBC, WHO**

WORK PODS

Designating employees to the same small working crew or work pod for as long as practical will reduce social interactions. Like a family unit, this work pod will ensure close contact only occurs within a select small crew. The same work pods should be maintained during working hours and in their accommodation facilities. Describe how work pods are used in your operation to reduce social interactions between worker and/or employers.

PROPOSED WORK PODS:

- **Drill Teams** - work in shifts with different times than main workforce, work in remote areas away from general population, camp and mealtime activities usually different from others.
- **Geology/Office Teams** - staff and related workers are often confined to one area, facility, building or coreshack.
- **Food/Cleaning/1st-Aid Teams** - crews work mostly in the kitchen area and expect to work individually in cleaning communal facilities as required. All cleaning will be conducted on an ongoing basis by the users and important overall cleaning duties shall proceed at a minimum of twice daily. Records and time schedules will be kept, posted and checked/verified.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND COMMUNITIES:

It is important that the social interactions between workers and the local community, including Indigenous communities is minimized and take place only when necessary (i.e., grocery shopping, using laundromats). List the person designated to buy food and essentials for others, so that only one person needs to visit any nearby community.

- EXPEDITOR SERVICES: Rugged Edge Holdings Ltd./3405 19th Ave/Smithers BC/V0J 2N0/ 250-877-7776
 - DELIVERY SCHEDULE: **1 trip per week proposed** (During each visit management will screen the expeditor and set procedures for entry, off-load, communicating and interacting w/ staff in such a way that prevents and controls COVID-19).

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

List any current precautions being taken in the region if employers travel to or are established near a First Nations community (precautions are available from the regional health authority).

- Wet'suwet'en First Nation Territory
 - Nearest FN Community/Reserve: **FELIX GEORGE 7, WET'SUWET'EN FIRST NATION**
 - Located at approx. KM-40 on Morice-Owen FSR at Owen Lake BC
- Town of Houston BC

SAFETY / ISOLATION

Describe the safety protocols and reporting process in place for employees that travel alone so that it is known when they have made it to and from the worksite safely. Provide the name and contact information of the Health and Safety Co-ordinators that oversee the implementation of the health and safety requirements related to COVID-19.

- Before travelling to/from camp, all workers shall transmit to a manager or delegate the trip details such as departure time, point of departure, chosen route, stops/interactions if necessary, destination ETA, communication devices (VHF, SAT, SPOT, CELL), provide periodic updates en-route and ensure all vehicle safety equipment is operational/checked and maintained (travel checklists/ maintenance log books will be utilized).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ACCOMMODATION SPACE

ACCOMMODATION SITE LIST WHERE THE PROTOCOL IS POSTED.

- Office
- Kitchen
- First Aid / Nursing Station
- Other (if required) _____

SLEEPING AREAS

- * Workers have separate sleeping room (Yes or No)?: NO for 4-beds or 25% of the 16 total bunks
 - For the 4-beds = drill work pods will sleep-2-to-a-tent and a barrier/curtain will be utilized

If you answered no, please confirm that there is at least 2 metres distance between beds, or barriers such as curtains are put in place to prevent droplets from spreading between workers. If you answered no, please confirm that employees sleeping in the same area are members of the same work pod.

COMMUNAL AREAS (KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, RECREATIONAL AREAS)

KITCHEN

Describe how crowding in the kitchen is addressed so that a 2m distance is maintained between workers while preparing or eating meals, or barriers and face masks if this is not possible.

* Kitchen operations will be flexible to accommodate vital COVID safety measures. Meal times will be scattered for the crews and work pods will collect food together. The mess-hall seating will be restricted to maintain social distancing, the workers can eat in open-air seating spaced for social distancing on appropriate days or meals can be consumed within their quarters if desired.

List the type of handwashing and cleaning facilities that are available in the kitchen.

* Kitchen staff will have running water at their disposal, sinks, soap and sanitizer ('60% min'). Surface cleaning products/ disinfectants will have appropriate DIN #'s and staff will be trained in their safe usage.

* Workers will have a hand sanitizer station at the kitchen entry-way and will be required at a minimum to clean their hands entering and leaving the commissary.

Describe the cleaning schedule and who is responsible for this.

* The Cleaning schedule will be on-going throughout the day as required. However, there will be key times (x2 or x3) set within the day to ensure a full cleaning application is applied to the entire kitchen and checklists will be maintained, posted and kept in a filing system for inspection.

Describe the facilities and services (including meals, communication systems and laundry) organized on site to enable workers to remain in the camp.

* Fully equipped camp services on-site offering all meals, bathrooms, showers, worker dry, laundry facilities and an office with communications.

Describe the cleaning and disinfecting procedure for all eating utensils and dishes that designated kitchen or cleaning staff use (i.e., 4-step process of pre-rinsing, washing, soaking in a bleach solution and air-drying).

* Utensils and dishes will be thoroughly cleaned/disinfected as per the 4-step process shown above.

BATHROOMS AND SHOWER AREAS

Describe how crowding in the bathroom and shower area are addressed so that a 2m distance is maintained between workers, or physical barriers if this is not possible. List the types of washing and cleaning facilities for bathrooms and showers.

- * Bathroom and shower facilities are single use only.

Describe the cleaning schedule and who is responsible for this.

- * The Cleaning schedule will be on-going throughout the day as required by cleaning staff and workers will be shown how to clean the shower before and after usage. Additionally, there will be key times (2 or 3) set within the day to ensure a full cleaning application is applied to the entire bathroom/shower areas and checklists will be maintained, posted and kept in a filing system for inspection.

COMMUNAL RECREATIONAL AREAS

Describe how crowding is minimized to maintain 2m distance is maintained between workers, or barriers if this is not possible (signs, schedules).

- * Due to COVID many common areas will likely be restricted or closed outright (99.9% of workers come self-contained with smart-phones, tablets and computer equipment as the principal entertainment/recreation.
- * Seating in the planned open-air meeting sites will be placed a minimum of 2m apart and workers will be encouraged to socialize together and responsibly in the fresh-air setting.

WASTE

List the waste removal schedule and protocols (use of disposable gloves, handwashing and double-bagging when necessary) and who is responsible for it.

- * Incinerator on-site. Will be used several times daily and any other time as required.

SELF-ISOLATION ACCOMMODATION FOR WORKERS SUSPECTED-OF COVID-19

If a worker or contractor displays symptoms of COVID-19, they are required to begin self-isolation immediately. Please keep up-to-date on B.C.'s requirements for who must self-isolate at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation> . Describe the plan to self-isolate workers if someone is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 (separate room, hotel, etc.) including who checks in on the worker, how meals are provided, who is responsible for waste management.

- * A separate quarters will be used for any persons requiring self-isolation.
- * The lead EMT/First-aider, with full PPE, will be responsible for caring/checking on the worker.
- * Meals can be provided to the worker to eat within the quarters.
- * Waste will be handled only w/ proper PPE, fully contained as prescribed & incinerated immediately as required.
- * Meal trays, plates, cups, utensils and so forth will be segregated from other items to ensure they are kept as a "unit" for thorough cleaning, storage and re-use by the isolated worker only.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WORK SITE

List below the location at the work sites(s) that the protocol is posted. The inspector may want to see that it is posted prominently and in a language that is understood by your workers. Protocols must be posted at all work sites.

WORKSITE 1 - KITCHEN

WORKSITE 2 - OFFICE

WORKSITE 3 – NURSING STATION &/or _____

TRANSPORTATION

Employers must ensure that the IPC protocol includes good hygiene, physical distancing and reducing social interactions during transportation of workers to and from the work site(s). Describe the precautions used when employees travel to and from accommodation and worksites (e.g., frequent hand washing, avoiding touching one's own face, maintaining physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting high touch points, minimizing contact with crowds and public places) including the use of work pods.

* Workers will travel two to a vehicle. Crew cabs will be utilized wherever possible and consist of a driver and a passenger situated in the back seat on the passenger side. All will be encouraged to wear PPE such as masks, clear/tinted safety glasses, disposable gloves and each unit will be equipped with wipes, hand sanitizer and tissues/paper towels.

Describe the vehicle cleaning that takes place at the start and throughout the work day (e.g., cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, window buttons and steering wheel) including the schedule and who is responsible.

* All communal surfaces will be wiped including outside/inside handles, steering wheel, arm and headrests, shifters, VHF mobile radio and microphone, all control knobs and dash.

* A pressure-washer vehicle/car wash station will be set up in the camp.

WORK POD

Describe the work pods for employees required to work together in close proximity to complete tasks.

* Work pods should include driller-helper, geologist-geotech and kitchen staff.

Describe the work pods when using vehicles to travel to and from the work site and accommodation site.

* Work pods should include driller-helper, geologist-geotech and kitchen staff.

Is a list of employee names within work pods maintained?

* Yes. Work pods will be established wherever possible. The daily tasks, areas of the property worked/visited and trips taken will be recorded, catalogued and filed in the main office.

Describe the designated vehicles for each of the work pods.

* Driller teams are on contract and have their own transport. Equity has trucks and 4x4 ATVs which can be designated for use by specific work pods such as the geology team.

HANDLING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

To reduce transmission by touching contaminated tools, describe how employees are instructed to use tools (i.e., cleaning schedules, use of disposable or leather gloves), or if they have their own set of tools to use throughout the duration of their employment.

- * The Camp manager will be tasked with many of the maintenance and up-keep of the camp and exclusive tool use from the mechanic shop. Plans include use of disposal gloves, safety glasses, PPE, wipes, disinfectants and power-washing tools and equipment after use or as required
- * The geologist and geotech crew will work on the drill core, cutting saw and sampling/shipping the rocks for assay. Each worker comes with personal tools and Equity plans to outfit and supply all workers with their own PPE and tools etc. to maintain and assist them in working more 'independently' on their tasks and in a safe manner.

Describe the training employees receive for use of specialized personal protective equipment (PPE). Describe the labeling system to organize specialized PPE.

- * No specialized PPE is required for the current diamond drilling program. Typical PPE will include: Hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, high viz-vests, masks, safety toes, ear muffs, ear plugs and face shields.

GOOD HYGIENE & PHYSICAL DISTANCING AT WORK

Hand washing stations with soap and water must be made available to workers in the field, as well as immediately outside or inside all buildings that workers are working, before and after eating food, taking breaks and using washrooms. All efforts should be made to maintain 2m separation, however in situations where it is not possible, use physical barriers, social barriers and masks to protect workers. List the work site locations that handwashing and cleaning facilities that are available (both in English and the language appropriate for the employees) or if hand sanitizer is provided for personal use in situations where handwashing stations cannot be brought to the work site.

- * Kitchen/Mess Hall, Office, Coreshack, Drill, Maintenance Shop, Lavatories, Shower and Sink areas.

If physical barriers cannot be established, describe the methods used to protect workers such as the use of masks, plexi-glass, staggering shifts, or other methods.

- * Masks or Shields
- * Disposable and Leather Gloves
- * Safety Glasses
- * Sanitizer/Soap Stations
- * Offering Wipes/Tissues in Multi-Locations
- * Plexi-glass or Film
- * Staggered Shifts
- * Staying in Pods

BREAKS

Describe how social interaction during breaks is addressed to reduce crowding.

- * All workers on break will maintain a minimum 2m of social distancing and if required break times will be scattered to reduce the numbers or potential of personnel congregating or crowding.

Date of Last Update: Aug 19, 2020