



Recommended Infection Control Measures for Responders in the Field During COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Prepare for the incident:

- Verify responders are fit before being mobilized
- Use a team approach to incorporate infection control techniques at the incident site
- Have supplies (such as soap, water, alcohol-based sanitizer, latex gloves, nitrile glove, N95 masks, signage, mask cleaner and paper towel) in your response truck or trailer
- Conduct a risk assessment of responders at the incident: have they been in contact with anyone showing symptoms or are they feeling any cold or flu-like symptoms?

2. Educate on-site responders and other stakeholders:

- Educate responders about COVID-19 and the importance of adhering to infection control measures during the incident safety meeting
- Provide advice on best available hand washing techniques on the site (portable water, soap, hand sanitizer, use of latex gloves)
- Do not shake hands or otherwise come in contact with other stakeholders on-site
- Encourage the use of N95 masks, if available on site, if working in close quarters with other responders*
- Encourage social distancing when eating, drinking or on breaks, and stagger breaks*
- Use distancing during work activities*
- Use sanitizing techniques on vehicle steering wheels and other surfaces*
- Use sanitizing techniques on personal equipment as well as work equipment (e.g., cell phones, air monitors, tools, PPE)
- Have a staging area for all equipment and PPE that has been used. This will ensure proper decontamination before the equipment is put back into service

*if practicable

3. Post signage:

- Post signs to encourage good hand washing techniques
- Post signs to identify locations of hand sanitizers, portable water sources, soap and other cleaning supplies available on site

4. Potentially infected responders or other stakeholders:

- Have responders report any cold or flu-like symptoms immediately to the IC
- Identify responders who may not feel well and have them vacate the incident scene
- Relocate unwell responders to their home, or ask them to self isolate in their hotel room and call the local health authority at 8-1-1



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5. Site security:

- Deny access to the incident site for unnecessary observers without a role
- Only allow essential personnel access to the command post, operational areas and meetings
- Establish command posts in outdoor or larger buildings. Avoid confined spaces for meetings

6. Control measures

- Wear N95 masks when available and appropriate
- Wear latex or nitrile gloves as required under work gloves
- Use water, soap, hand sanitizer and other means to disinfect hands regularly on site
- Consider hot water availability on the incident site
- During off hours, consider take out food from a restaurant or use a drive-thru for food pick up
- Avoid buffet meals
- Do not frequent restaurants, pubs, lounges, etc. after your shift
- Avoid hotel fitness training centres or other gyms in your off time

7. Respiratory equipment

- Do not share respiratory equipment between responders
- Sanitize masks between uses with a mask disinfectant

8. Incident close out / Debrief:

- During the safety meeting and debrief, advise responders to inform their supervisor and ERAC Home Base Coordinator (HBC) if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of departing the incident so that others who were on site can be informed to self isolate

9. Resources

- [Signage](#) (Government of Canada)
- [Wash your hands](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada) [Video](#) (Public Health Ontario)
- [How to Handrub?](#) (World Health Organization) [Video](#) (Public Health Ontario)
- [Guide to Local Production: WHO-recommended Handrub Formulations](#) (World Health Organization)

If you have any questions, please contact [Patrick Knight](#), Safety & Quality Manager, 403-543-6501 or [Lee Nelson](#), Operation Manager, 250-318-5708.