



Guidance Document – COVID-19 Safety Plans

May 19, 2020

The May 14, 2020 Order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) requires places of work to have COVID-19 Safety Plans in place that address the risks posed by COVID-19 to workers and others in the workplace. The PHO Order is located at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/class_order_employers_covid-19_safety_plans_covid-19_may_14_final.pdf. The PHO Order refers to occupational health and safety, and the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) is adopting an approach for mine workers that is consistent to that being taken by WorkSafeBC for other workers in BC.

Accordingly, all mine sites in BC with on-site workers, are required to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan that outlines the policies, guidelines, and procedures they have put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This plan follows the six steps below:

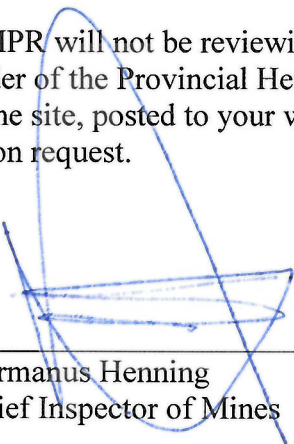
- Assess the risk at your workplace
- Implement measures to reduce the risk
- Develop policies
- Develop communication plans and training
- Monitor your workplace and update your plans as needed
- Assess and address risks from resuming operations


Employers must involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, supervisors and the union (if applicable) in identifying protocols for their workplace. Mines currently in operation are expected to protect the safety of their workers while the COVID-19 Safety Plan is in development, and the plan shall be in place no later than the end of day on 31 May 2020. All other mines contemplating the commencement of on-site work, must have the plan in place before doing so.

This Guidance is established in support of the PHO Order, and in accordance with Section 1.91 (1) of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC, which states that:

The manager shall take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure that the workplace is free of potential hazardous agents and conditions which could adversely affect health, safety, or well-being of the worker.

EMPR will not be reviewing or approving the plans of individual mines, but consistent with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, this plan must be posted in a prominent location on the mine site, posted to your website if you have one, and made available to any inspector of mines upon request.


Hermanus Henning
Chief Inspector of Mines


George Warnock
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