

CPWR-NIOSH COVID-19 Webinar Series: **Impact of COVID-19 on the Industry and New Research Initiatives**

Thursday, November 12th, 2020

Welcome:

Chris Trahan Cain, Executive Director, CPWR — The Center for Construction Research and Training
Chip Hughes, Jr., Director, NIEHS Worker Training Program

Presenters:

Deborah Weinstock, Director, NIEHS National Clearinghouse
Jonathan Rosen, Industrial Hygienist, NIEHS National Clearinghouse

Q&A Moderator: Sharon D. Beard, Industrial Hygienist, NIEHS WTP

For Technical Difficulties:



Chat with host, Jessica Bunting



or email jbunting@cpwr.com

If you have trouble hearing through your computer, call in via phone:



415-655-0003 Access code: 127 538 1702#

NIEHS Activities, Tools and Resources to Protect Workers from COVID-19

- Summary of training resources and tools
- Two training programs available:
 1. *Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace, Safety & Health Awareness for Responders to the Coronavirus*
 2. *Essential & Returning Worker Training, Protecting Essential Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace*

Joseph (Chip) Hughes, JR, MPH

- Director, Worker Training Program
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



NIH/NIEHS WTP COVID-19 Virtual Safety Training Initiative

WTP received \$10 million from the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

Goal: To increase health and safety awareness for responders and workers who face potential exposure to COVID-19

Training Initiative Objectives:

Identify key **evidence-based methods to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in workplaces** providing essential services

Create a **virtual training platform** for frontline healthcare, responders, law enforcement, environmental and critical service workers

Build a cadre of **virtual safety trainers/ advisors to deliver remote training** via advanced training technology to frontline workers

Top Line Training COVID19 Deployment Challenges

- How do we carry on socially distanced, face-to-face training safely?
- Can we prepare training advisors to deliver and communicate honest, evidence-based information to frontline workers and their organizations?
- How do we build and broaden a train-the-trainer (TTT) process to increase our digital training response capacity?
- How do we build resilience training and social support into every one of our training activities?

Deborah Weinstock, MS

NIEHS WTP

National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

- Director
- National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training



National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>

- National resource for hazardous waste worker training resources
- Curricula
- Disaster Preparedness and Response Resources
- Hazardous Materials – HAZWOPER
- Environmental Justice
- Emerging Issues
- Training Development
- News & Resources
- Meetings and Workshops
- Weekly Newsletter – eNewsbrief

Curricula Catalog

Curricula Catalog Search Form

Curricula Catalog Advanced Search Form

Course Category:**Program:****Grantee:****Training provider:****Language:****Search terms:**

NOTE: You can select one or more of the search options listed above.

[Search curricula catalog](#)

Hazardous Materials - HAZWOPER



[Chemical Exposure](#)



[DOE Site Cleanup](#)



[Illicit Drug Exposure](#)



[Mold Exposure](#)



[Radiation Exposure](#)



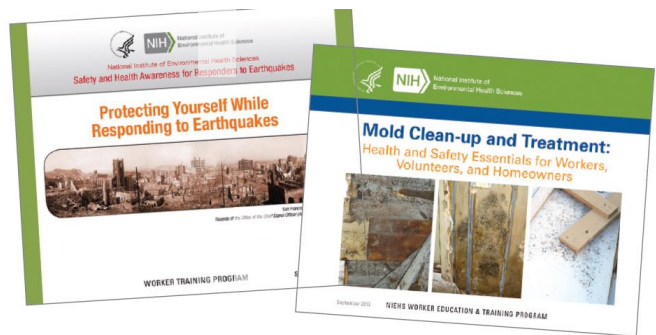
[Superfund Sites](#)

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Booklet Quantity Desired

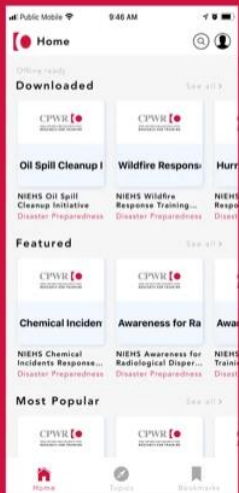
Please enter the quantity desired for the booklets indicated below.

- Avian Influenza booklet (English)**
Protecting Yourself from Avian Influenza
- Avian Influenza booklet (Spanish)**
Cómo protegerse de la gripe aviar
- COVID-19 in the Workplace booklet (English)**
Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace
- COVID-19 in the Workplace booklet (Spanish)**
Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace
- Earthquake booklet (English)**
Protecting Yourself While Responding to Earthquakes
- Flood Response Orientation booklet (English)**
Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods
- Flood Response Orientation booklet (Spanish)**
Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others
- Hurricane Safety and Health booklet (English)**
Safety Awareness for Responders to Hurricanes
- Hurricane Safety and Health booklet (Spanish)**
Safety Awareness for Responders to Hurricanes
- Hurricane Safety and Health booklet (Vietnamese)**
Safety Awareness for Responders to Hurricanes
- Mold Clean-up and Treatment booklet (English)**
Health and Safety Essentials for Workers, Volunteers, and Homeowners
- Mold Clean-up and Treatment booklet (Spanish)**
Health and Safety Essentials for Workers, Volunteers, and Homeowners
- Oil Spill Safety and Health booklet (Spanish)**
Safety Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers
- Wildfire booklet (English)**
Health and Safety Essentials for Workers, Volunteers, and Homeowners



Disaster Preparedness App

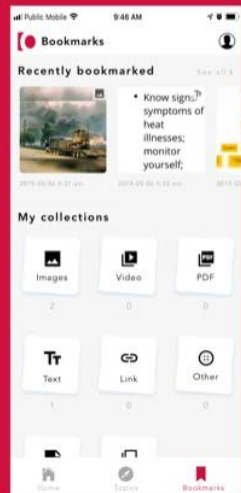
Learn about safety and health related to disaster response and cleanup activities



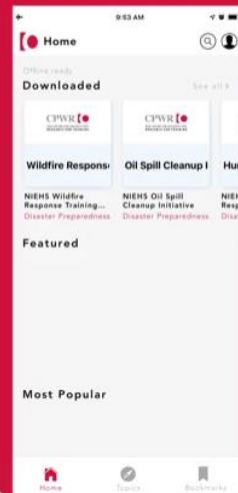
Discover resources to protect yourself while responding to disasters



Bookmark & search



Offline content access. Anytime, anywhere



COVID-19 Resources

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/covid19worker/>

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Essential and Returning Workers Training Tool

COVID-19 Toolbox

WTP Awardee Resources

WTP Webinars

WTP Technical Workshops

Federal Links and Documents

State/Local Links and Documents

Other Links and Documents



COVID-19 Resources Continued

- Training materials in English, Spanish, PPT and PDF, and online versions.
- Essential worker course also in Vietnamese.

COVID-19 Toolbox

1. COVID-19 Resource List
2. Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace Fact Sheet
3. Workplace Checklist
4. Can SARS-CoV-2, the Virus that Causes COVID-19 Disease, Be Spread by Blood?
5. Evaluation Tip Sheet and Resources
6. Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Eye Exposures and Infection
7. Technology Tips for Virtual Meetings and Interactive Online Sessions
8. The COVID-19 Pandemic Is Fueling the Opioid Crisis!

Workplace Checklist for Prevention of Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 Virus

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

Workplace Checklist for Prevention of Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 Virus in Non-Healthcare Industries

CONTENTS

- 2 COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan
- 3 Measures to Maintain Social Distancing
- 4 Engineering Controls
- 5 Work Practices
- 6 Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection
- 7 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protection
- 8 Sick Leave, Symptom Screening, and Employee Health
- 9 Exposures and Case Reporting
- 10 Measures to Protect Employee Mental Health and Physical Well-Being

Introduction

This checklist is a tool to help employers, unions, and workers in non-healthcare facilities assess workplace exposure, and identify prevention and control measures for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. Key exposure risk factors include working within 6 feet of people who are known to be or are potentially infected with the virus and working with equipment, materials, and/or surfaces that are potentially contaminated with the virus.

This document may be completed collaboratively by employer and worker representatives or individually by each party. The checklist uses a yes/no progressive format; if a question is not applicable, users should select the N/A button. The "Notes" box should be used to list the checklist item number and provide details for follow-up actions.

After completing the checklist, be sure to:

1. Review each item.
2. Develop an action plan that lists each item, who is responsible, what needs to be done, and by when.
3. Develop a communication plan to inform employees, customers, and the public of actions taken by the organization to protect workers and the public from exposure to the virus.

Employer/Agency Name	
Employer/Agency Location(s)	
Industry Type (e.g., retail, manufacturing, office)	
Name of person(s) completing this checklist	
Date of completion	

COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan	YES	In Progress	NO	N/A
1. Has the employer deployed a safety and health committee or other forum for frontline workers and other key stakeholders to participate in the development of the COVID-19 exposure control plans?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Has the employer developed a written COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Has the employer conducted a Job Hazard/Safety Analysis for each position?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Has the employer put the most effective method(s) for minimizing exposure to SARS CoV-2 in place?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Are employees encouraged to speak up, without fear of retaliation, if they have safety and health concerns or if they observe violations of employer policies and procedures?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Is there a formal process for employees to file complaints and offer suggestions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Has the employer provided communications and training on the following:				
a. Self-reporting expectations?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Safety and health protocols and control measures?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Information on the virus and how it is transmitted in advance of work?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Other? _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NOTES				

Polling question 1 regarding mental health (check all that apply):

1. I have noticed an increase in worker stress during the pandemic.
2. I have noticed an increase in alcohol and drug use during the pandemic.
3. I believe training may help address these issues among workers in my industry/ union.
4. All of the above
5. None of the above.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is Fueling the Opioid Crisis

- Are you having trouble sleeping, eating, or focusing?
- Are you getting into more frequent conflicts with loved ones?
- Are you no longer able to enjoy pleasurable activities?
- You are not alone.

~50%

Nearly half of Americans report the coronavirus crisis is negatively impacting their mental health.

1,000%

There was a 1,000% increase in emotional distress reported to emergency hotlines.

This fact sheet:

- Identifies the link between the COVID-19 pandemic and an increased risk of opioid misuse.
- Provides tips to manage stressors caused by the pandemic.

Tens of millions of people report misuse of prescription pain medicine. There were 46,802 opioid overdose fatalities in 2018 due to either a prescription or illegal opioid, accounting for two-thirds of all drug overdose deaths that year. More than 400,000 people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S. between 1999-2018. Unlike COVID-19, there is no real time national counting of opioid overdose deaths but, in the last two months, at least 30 states have reported increases in opioid fatalities since the start of the pandemic.^{1,2}

The New York Times has referred to the COVID-19 pandemic as a "national relapse trigger."³ In Erie County, New York, 85 people died from overdoses during the first four months of 2020: up 100% from that period last year.

- 1 American Medical Association. Issue brief. Reports of increases in opioid-related overdose and other concerns during COVID pandemic, <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-06/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf>
- 2 David A. Patterson Silver Wolf. Real-time data are essential for COVID-19. They're just as important for the opioid overdose crisis, STAT, MAY 20, 2020, <https://www.statnews.com/2020/05/20/real-time-data-essential-for-opioid-overdose-crisis-as-for-covid-19/>
- 3 Jan Hoffman, With Meetings Banned, Millions Struggle to Stay Sober On Their Own, New York Times, March 26, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/health/coronavirus-alcoholics-drugs-online.html>

- Why?
 - Social Isolation
 - Work-related Stress
 - Work-related Ergonomics
- Different Impacts in Diverse Communities
- Managing Stress
- What Can be Done?

Jonathan Rosen, MS CIH FAIHA

NIEHS WTP

National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

- Consultant
- National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training
- Principal author of NIEHS COVID-19 materials




**Polling question 2 regarding worksite training on SARS CoV-2/ COVID-19
(select all that apply):**

1. Workers in my union/ industry have received training.
2. I helped to organize and plan training for workers in my union/industry.
3. I would like to organize and plan training for workers in my union/industry.
4. Training is not needed in my union/industry.

CAUTION!

This presentation by itself ***is not*** sufficient training for personnel who have not received specific training related to the



This applies to
both training
programs!

practice in putting on and taking off PPE and respirators and performing decontamination procedures until competency and confidence can be demonstrated.

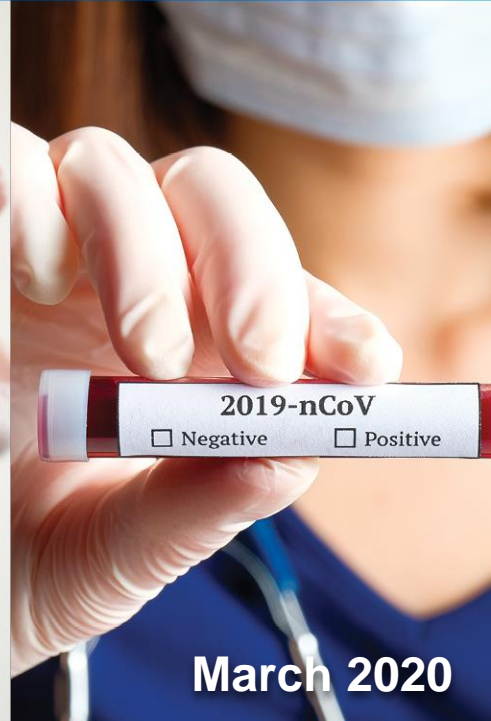
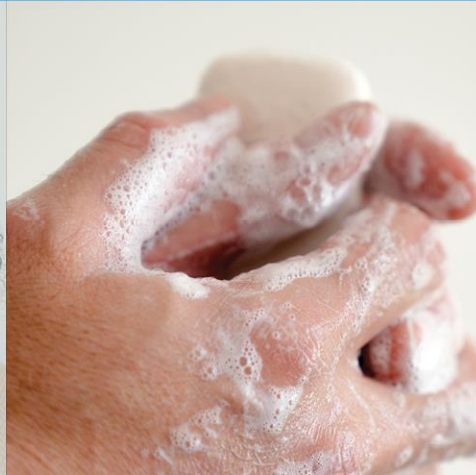


National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

NIEHS COVID-19 Response Training Tool

Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace

Safety and Health Awareness for Responders to the Coronavirus



**NOTE: This program is
being updated.**

March 2020

Goal and learning objectives

Goal: Increase health and safety awareness for responders and workers with potential exposure to SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.

Learning objectives: After attending participants will be able to:

- Explain basic facts about SARS CoV-2 virus.
- Explain basic facts about COVID-19 disease.
- Define key steps in worker protection and infection prevention and control.

Course Overview

4-hour, awareness level,
worker training program.

Designed to inform
workers about how to
protect themselves and
co-workers from
exposure to the virus.

Course should be
tailored to industry, site-
specific needs.

You may shorten the
program by using the
“Protecting Yourself
From COVID-19 in the
Workplace” fact sheet.”

Employer and worker responsibilities



Employers and workers have responsibilities under the OSH Act.

- The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires that employers provide a safe and healthy work environment. Employers must follow OSHA standards and regulations.
- Workers should participate in the development and implementation of the employer's safety and health policies and help ensure that they are appropriate and implemented.

This information is in both training programs

Speak up! You have a right to file a complaint with OSHA, the state or local health department, the mayor, or the police!

Course content

- Worldwide and US Case Maps (links to WHO/Johns Hopkins)
- **Module 1:** Basics on transmission, incubation period, symptoms, person under investigation, confirmed case, survival of virus outside of the body, comparison to influenza
- **Module 2:** Assessing the potential for exposure in the workplace, high, medium, and low exposure categories, community/workplace connection, exposure reporting, follow-up, and role of public health

Content continued...

- **Module 3:** Methods to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace, key elements of workplace plan, using hierarchy of controls, examples of controls, relevant OSHA standards.
- Includes practical steps all workers should take like social distancing, mask wearing, etc.
- Has some industry examples that are not relevant to construction that can be omitted.
- Reviews the NIEHS Pathogen Safety Data Guide and Training Module.
- Review mental health issues related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Polling question 3 regarding COVID fatigue (check one):

1. Workers in my union/industry are diligent about wearing masks and physical distancing.
2. Workers in my union/industry are no longer consistent in safety practices such as mask wearing and physical distancing.



Essential and Returning Workers Training Tool

Protecting Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace



**NOTE: This program is
being updated.**

APRIL 2020

Course Overview

4-hour, awareness level, worker training program.

Target audience: workers, supervisors, and managers in critical infrastructure and re-opening industries.

Protecting essential workers from infection is key to stopping the spread of the virus and maintaining critical services.

Course should be tailored to industry, site-specific needs.

Goal and learning objectives

Goal: Increase health and safety awareness for essential workers to prevent potential exposure to COVID-19.

Learning objectives: After attending participants will be able to:

- Assess risk factors for work-related exposure to COVID-19.
- Define protective measures employers should implement applicable to their industry.
- Understand workers rights to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Review strategies for protecting mental health during the crisis.

Course Agenda

Goals & learning objectives, intro and background

Modules:

1. Assessing the risk of exposure
2. Exposure prevention
3. Cleaning & Disinfection
4. Resilience: Protecting Mental Health



Begin an action plan for workplace protection from COVID-19

Introduction – 20 slides, optional handwashing video

- Definitions
- Essential workers
- Employer & worker responsibilities
- What is SARS COV-2?
- What is COVID-19?
- US Situation – April 2020
- Worker protection
- Handwashing



General principles – worker protection

- Increase physical distancing between people to six feet.
- Everyone should wear masks.
- Flexibility in where and when to work.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Do not share equipment.
- Good housekeeping.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting, and thoroughly after a confirmed COVID-19 exposure.

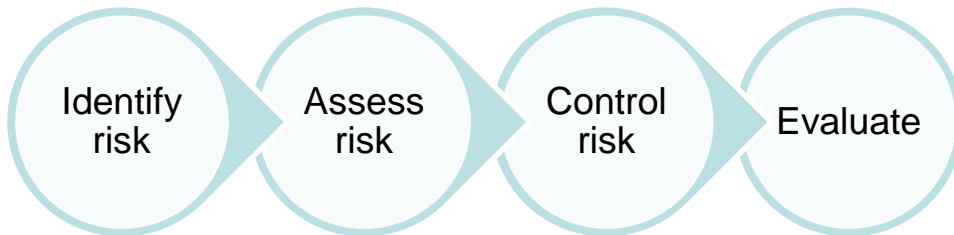


Module 1: Assessing the Risk of Exposure to SARS CoV-2 14 slides

- Transmission
- How long does SARS CoV-2 survive outside the body
- Key exposure factors
- Community/workplace connection
- High, medium, low risk exposure risk
- Steps in assessing risk
- Job hazard analysis
- Documentation/Communication

What is your communication plan with employees/ public you serve?

Job Hazard Analysis



Module 2: Exposure Prevention – 62 slides

- Hierarchy of controls
- Implementation of safeguards
- Basic hygiene and social distancing
- Examples of engineering and administrative controls
- CDC recommendations sick leave policies
- PPE, respirators, and masks
- Photo examples
- OSHA PPE standard
- Santa Clara checklist
- Choke points
- What if a worker tests positive?

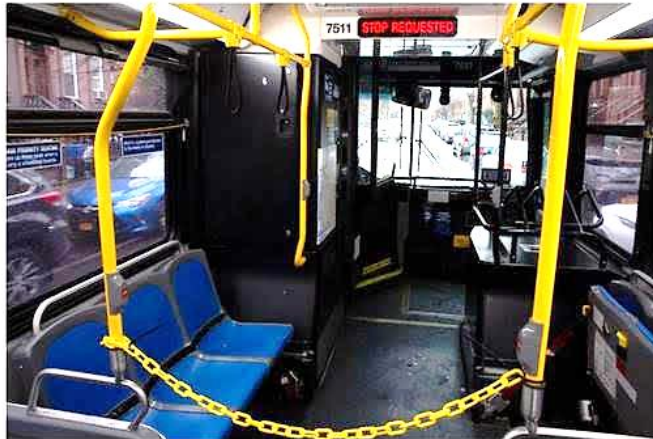
Selection and implementation of safeguards

Using the results of the hazard analysis, determine if the exposure potential is high, medium, or low.

Then select control measures using the hierarchy of controls.

Be sure to evaluate the controls and make adjustments as needed.

Are these safeguards adequate?



Riders are now blocked from getting too close to MTA bus drivers. <https://www.mta.info/press-releases/2020/05/mta-bus-operators-protecting-their-health>

Are these safeguards adequate?



Module 3: Cleaning & Disinfection – 12 slides

- Guidelines
- Contact time is important
- Trips and traps
- standard
- Health effects of chemicals
- Search function EPA site
- OSHA Hazard Communication
- Disinfectants
- High contact surfaces and tools



Module 4: Resilience: Protecting Mental Health – 10 slides

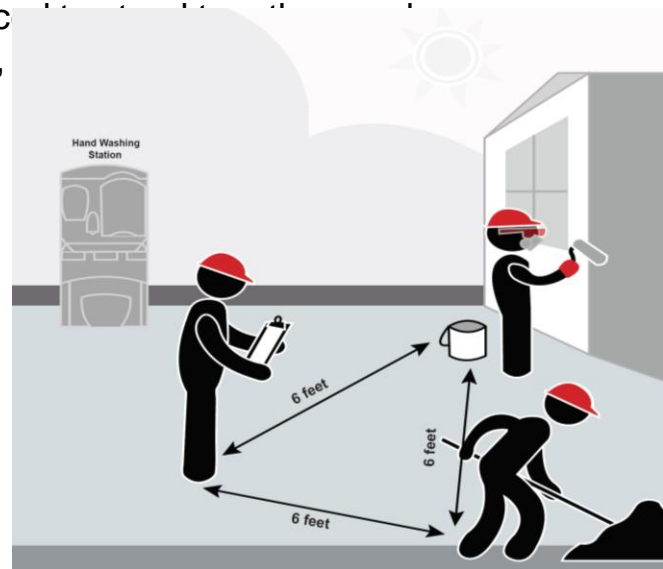
- Mental health & stress
- Self-care and stress management
- Reaching out to co-workers
- 4 factsheets available
- Impact on families
- NIEHS Resiliency Training
- Apps



Identify choke points

- Identify choke points where workers are forced to pass through hallways, hoists and elevators, break areas, where social distancing is maintained.

Example of adapting to construction industry. Graphic from CPWR.



Communicate the safety plan

Conduct Safety Stand-Down/toolbox talk/tailgate training on job sites to explain the protective measures in place for all workers.



What type of job and lifestyle stressors are members experiencing?

- Mass layoffs
- Job Loss
- Loss of income
- Loss of health insurance
- Fear of infection
- Fear of infecting family
- Illness & death



Union Resources

- EAP
- MAP
- Peer Training
- Behavioral Health Benefits
- Community Resources



Begin an action plan for COVID-19

Action item	Responsible person	Action steps	Date to be completed	Notes

- Actions can be at the individual or organizational level.
- Key is to have a process, accountability, and a feasible workplan.

Sharon D. Beard, MS

- Industrial Hygienist, Worker Training Program
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

