

# MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

As challenges caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to shift, the BC government and Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's provincial health officer (PHO), are taking unprecedented measures to slow transmission of COVID-19.

Effective March 25, 2020, the public health officer has provided guidance to B.C. manufacturers directing employers to take all necessary precautions to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission and illness to themselves and their employees. This includes:

- There should be no more than 50 people in the same space in any circumstances.
- Employees must be able to maintain a distance of two metres apart from each other.
- Reduce in-person meetings and other gatherings and hold shop meetings in open spaces or outside.
- Increase the number of handwashing stations and post signage that identifies their location. Handwashing stations must be added if none currently exist.
- Maintain a list of employees who are currently working in each shop and update this list daily.
- All common areas and surfaces should be cleaned at the end of each day. Examples include washrooms, shared offices, common tables, desks, light switches and door handles.
- Anyone with COVID-19-like symptoms, such as sore throat, fever, sneezing or coughing, must self-isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from onset of symptoms, until their symptoms have completely resolved.

Section 4.85 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation provides for a minimum standard around the provision of washrooms and handwashing facilities. Where plumbed facilities are not feasible, employers must provide access to portable washroom and handwashing facilities. Those facilities must be maintained in good working order and be provided with the supplies necessary for their use.

Employers should reassess their work environment every day and keep updated with the information posted on the Province's COVID-19 website: [www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19).

In support of these efforts, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) and Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) have developed resources for employers and workers that will ensure all necessary precautions are being taken to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission and illness to forest sector employees.

The resources reflect industry best practices and incorporate BC Provincial Health Agency and WorkSafeBC requirements to ensure the forest industry is taking the necessary steps to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

The safety of forest industry workers remains our top priority. To access these resources, please go to: <http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/3460>.



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is good business