

OHS/ES eNews

During the current Covid-19 pandemic, you will receive special editions of eNews providing the latest developments in Occupational Health and Safety and Employment Standards.

COVID-19: a workplace health and safety concern

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that can be spread either directly or indirectly.

- Direct infection can happen if:
 - Someone coughs or sneezes on you.
 - You shake hands with someone who is sick and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Indirect spread can happen from contaminated surfaces, tissues, cloth or paper.

The OHS Resource Portal now has a [COVID-19 coronavirus](#) section with bulletins related to minimizing risk from respiratory viruses.

Read [Respiratory viruses and the workplace](#) for detailed information about

- OHS legal requirements
- infection prevention
- infection control best practices

COVID-19 information

Employers, supervisors and workers can visit [COVID-19 support for employers and employees](#) for up-to-date information.

- [COVID-19 Chief Medical Officer PPE Guidelines in a health care setting](#)
- [Essential Services](#)
- [Guidance for managers and operators of industrial work camps](#)
- [Non-healthcare workplace guidance during COVID-19](#)

Health and safety associations

- Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association provides weekly free webinars on [Mental fitness during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- Alberta Construction Association has revised its document, [Pandemic Planning for the Construction Industry-A Guide](#).

Quick links

- [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)
- [Alberta OHS legislation](#)
- [Employment Standards](#)
- [Partnerships in Injury Reduction](#)
- [Alberta Queen's Printer](#)

Workers' Compensation Board-Alberta

Workers' Compensation Board-Alberta (WCB) is restricting visitors at their offices with the exception of those who have pre-arranged cheque pick-ups, independent medical examinations or permanent clinical impairment appointments.

Millard Health has postponed all services with the exception of clinical assessments. Employer seminars and workshops have been postponed through to April 30 when they will be re-evaluated. All private sector employers will have their 2020 WCB-Alberta premiums deferred to 2021.

- [Premium relief for employers](#)
- [COVID-19 Employer Fact sheet](#)
- [COVID-19 Worker Fact Sheet](#)
- [WCB Alberta COVID-19 Update](#)

Other resources

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has made selected courses and publications freely available to help support workplaces in their efforts to protect the health, safety and well-being of their employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Pandemics](#)
- [Flu and Infectious Disease Outbreak](#)

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Stay informed

Employers, supervisors and workers must follow advice given by public health officials. Please note that advice and direction frequently changes as a result of new information and understanding of COVID-19. It is imperative that you keep informed, on a daily basis, of the rules, procedures and directions related to protecting workers from COVID-19. The following links are current as of the date of this eNews Bulletin.

- Alberta Health – [COVID-19 coronavirus info for Albertans](#)
- Alberta Health Services – [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada – [Corona virus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Update

Alberta Labour and Immigration, Certifying Partners (CPs) and the WCB have made significant temporary changes to the COR program. This will help Alberta employers maintain their CORs and auditors maintain auditor certification status during the pandemic.

Summary of temporary measures include:

- audits are simplified and limited to documentation-only from March 17 to December 31, 2020
- employers who are certified with this process will receive a one-year COR, and remain eligible for WCB PIR refunds

Contact OHS

1-866-415-8690 (toll-free)

780-415 -8690 (Edmonton)

TTY: 1-800-232-7215

TTY: 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

[Report a serious incident](#)

[Online incident reporting service](#)

Contact ES

1-877-427-3731 (toll-free)

780-427-3731 (Edmonton)

[Ask an Employment Standard question](#)

CPs may use their own staff auditors to conduct documentation-only COR certification and maintenance audits to assist employers

- CPs are authorized to grant 90-day extensions to member employers for CORs that expire between March 17 and June 30
- the requirement for employers in the Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) program to keep a SECOR trained employee on staff is waived until December 31
- CPs will conduct auditor training via live webinars
- the number of completed audits required to maintain auditor certification is reduced from two to one
- CPs may extend auditor certification expiry dates to December 31

For more information contact your [Certifying Partner](#).

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This material is current to April 7, 2020. The information, law, requirements, and policies are constantly changing during this unprecedented global pandemic. It is important that you keep yourself informed of the current requirements.

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