

OSHA ‘Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19’ Risk Levels and Recommendations

Risk Level	Examples of Workers in this Risk Level Category	OSHA Recommended Precautions
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthcare workers that perform aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction, and dental procedures and exams) ▪ Healthcare or laboratory workers collecting specimens ▪ Morgue workers performing autopsies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommended Engineering Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Air-handling systems ○ Airborne infection isolation rooms ○ Special precautions to handle specimens ▪ Recommended Administrative Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exposure prevention procedures ○ Posted signs requesting reporting on symptoms ○ Enhanced medical screen offerings to employees ○ Job-specific education and training on prevention of transmission of COVID-19 ○ Provide employees with gloves, a gown, a face shield or goggles, and either a face mask or a respirator, depending on their job tasks and exposure risks
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthcare workers and support staff ▪ Medical transport workers ▪ Mortuary workers involved in preparing bodies for burial or cremation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommended Engineering Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Air-handling systems ○ Airborne infection isolation rooms ○ Special precautions to handle specimens ▪ Recommended Administrative Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exposure prevention procedures ○ Posted signs requesting reporting on symptoms ○ Enhanced medical screen offerings to employees ○ Job-specific education and training on prevention of transmission of COVID-19 ○ Provide employees with gloves, a gown, a face shield or goggles, and either a face mask or a respirator, depending on their job tasks and exposure risks
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workers having direct contact with the general public (e.g., schools, retailers, and high-population density work environments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommended Engineering Controls: Use physical barriers where feasible ▪ Recommended Administrative Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider making face masks available (note: while OSHA recommends employers consider masks, we recommend eliminating public interaction and/or social distancing is preferable due to the shortage of N-95 masks for the healthcare industry, unless employees in this exposure group are interacting with known or confirmed individuals with COVID-19 in accordance with CDC guidelines)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post signs about symptoms of COVID-19 and precautions ○ Limit contact with individuals known or suspected of being COVID-19 infected to certain areas ○ Communicate medical screening and worker resources
<p>Lower Risk (Caution)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workers who do not have contact with the general public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommended Engineering Controls: None ▪ Recommended Administrative Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor public health communications on COVID-19 and ensure workers can access information