

OHS/ES eNews

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, you will receive special editions of eNews with the latest developments in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Employment Standards (ES).

COVID-19: 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 has a [COVID-19 coronavirus](#) section with bulletins related to minimizing risk from respiratory viruses.

Certificate of Recognition (COR)

In response to COVID-19, COR audits have been simplified and limited to documentation-only (no interviews or observation). Documentation-only audits will be accepted for certification, recertification and maintenance purposes, and will be eligible for PIR refunds from the WCB. Employers who are certified or recertified with this process will receive a one-year COR. This process will be in place from March 17 to December 31, 2020.

The minimum requirement for this simplified audit is three months of documentation. The passing score for documentation-only certification and recertification audits is 80 per cent overall (element scores will not be counted). The passing score for documentation-only maintenance audits is 60 per cent overall (element scores will not be counted).

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

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 Standards question](#)

COVID-19 information

Employers, supervisors and workers can visit [Guidance for workplaces](#), [Supports for businesses](#) and [Restrictions on businesses](#) for up-to-date information.

- [COVID-19 Chief Medical Officer of Health PPE guidelines in health care setting](#)
- [Essential services](#)
- [Guidance for managers and operators of industrial work camps](#)
- [Working from home during a pandemic](#)
- [Workplace guidance for business owners](#)

Health and safety associations

Alberta Motor Transport Association

- [AMTA /covid-19-resources/](#)

Energy Safety Canada

- [COVID-19 update](#)
- [Webinar: Home office ergonomics](#) (login required)

Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association

- [COVID-19 and your hotel](#)

Workers' Compensation Board-Alberta (WCB)

Virtual services ensure workers continue to receive access to the support they need. While in-person assessment and treatment services are not available at this time, secure virtual assessment and treatment services for workers are available from all providers through a computer or smart phone connection.

In follow up to the Government of Alberta's premium relief measures, refund cheques are now being issued to private sector employers who have made payments towards their 2020 WCB premiums. For more information, see their [premium relief fact sheet](#).

If you have questions about COVID-19 and WCB, visit WCB's [COVID-19 web page](#).

Mental health at work

Canadian Mental Health Association: Alberta

- [COVID-19 outbreak: Protecting your mental health](#)

Government of Canada

- [COVID-19 and mental health @ work](#)

Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association

- [Maintaining Mental Fitness](#) (free webinar)

National Day of Mourning

April 28 is the [National Day of Mourning](#) to remember and honour those killed or injured due to a workplace tragedy or illness. It's a day to renew our commitment to improving health and safety at the workplace.

Quick links

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

Other resources

Alberta Cannabis Association

- [COVID-19 and your store](#)

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

- [Domestic violence and COVID-19](#)

Alberta Occupational Health Nurses Association

- [COVID-19 updates and resources](#)

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

- [COVID-19 tip sheets for high-risk and essential occupations and industries](#)

Food and Consumer Products of Canada

- [COVID-19 resources](#)

Transport Canada

- [Federal safety guidance to protect drivers and limit the spread of COVID-19 in commercial vehicles](#)

Stay informed

Employers, supervisors and workers must follow advice given by public health officials.

Alberta Health

- [COVID-19 coronavirus info for Albertans](#)

Alberta Health Services

- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Mental Health Help Line](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada

- [Corona virus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

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This material is current to April 24, 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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