



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: IC 7.4

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Guidelines for Construction & Renovations During a Pandemic (e.g. COVID-19)*

APPROVAL DATE: July 2020

REVISION DATE: November 2022

REVIEW DATE:

Page 1 of 3

BACKGROUND:

Construction and renovation projects in health care facilities pose a threat to residents and may also be a health risk to staff and visitors. Health care-associated infections (HAIs) have been attributed to construction, renovation, and maintenance of health care facilities.

Advanced age is a risk factor for HAIs therefore; careful planning is required to ensure that appropriate infection prevention and control measures are utilized throughout the project to reduce these risks.

Additional infection prevention and control measures for construction and renovation projects during a pandemic are required. Consultation and engagement with appropriate stakeholders regarding infection prevention and control must be incorporated into the planning, working and commissioning phases to minimize risk of infection throughout the project during a pandemic.

PURPOSE:

- To prevent infectious disease transmission through the construction, renovation and architectural design of a facility.
- Infection prevention and control is important in each phase of the project - planning phase, work phase and the commissioning phase.

PROCEDURE:

1. Contractors are required to follow Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) policy 7.3 “Guidelines for Construction and Renovation”.
2. During a pandemic situation, such as COVID-19, additional precautions will be required to ensure the health and safety of all contractors, Home residents, and staff during construction, renovation, maintenance and design projects as per Public Health, Ontario Health, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care.
3. Additional precautions required by contractors during COVID-19 include:



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Page 2 of 3

-
- Contractors must conduct a self-assessment prior to coming to the work site. If a contractor fails self-assessment, the contractor must not report to the work site; but, is required to notify their manager/supervisor, and contact their health care provider and/or report to a COVID-19 assessment centre
 - Contractor(s) must be screened at the front door upon arrival to the Home if entering the Home
 - Contractor(s) must pass screening
 - Contractor(s) must complete a Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival to the Home if entering the Home; as applicable by ministry directives
 - Contractor(s) Rapid Antigen Test must show negative result prior to proceeding to their work in the home; as applicable by ministry directives. If the contractor fails the Rapid Antigen Test, the contractor must follow the same steps as identified in the above bullet for self-assessment.
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times while in the Home as directed by public health, Ontario Health and/or Ministry of Long-Term Care; and; PPE will be provided by the contractor
 - Frequent hand hygiene with soap and water and/or alcohol-based hand rub
 - Any entry to an occupied area of the Home during a pandemic must be pre-approved by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) management of the Home
4. IPAC requirements are subject to change during a pandemic, and, any required changes will be communicated to contractors as made available for immediate implementation. Contractors have an accountability to stay informed of pandemic resources and required IPAC measures for contractors.
5. During COVID-19, the following resource guidelines (May 2020) must be followed, including, but are not limited to the following:
- **Construction site health and safety during COVID-19:**
www.ontario.ca/page/construction-site-health-and-safety-during-covid-19
 - **Resources from Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (ihsa.ca) to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace: Construction**
 - [Procedures for handling paperwork](#)



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Page 3 of 3

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- [Worker responsibilities](#)
 - [Supervisor responsibilities](#)
 - [Construction facility hygiene](#)
 - [Sharing tools \(hand tools\)](#)
 - [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)
 - [Handling and receiving packages](#)
 - [Lunchroom practices](#)
 - [COVID-19 screening \(checklist\)](#)
 - [Construction site trailers](#)
 - [End of shift best practices](#)
 - [On-site sanitation](#)
 - Responding to a suspected COVID-19 exposure if you are:
 - [an employer](#)
 - [a constructor](#)
 - **Ontario General Contractors Association – Working within Physical Distancing Protocol: COVID-19:** <https://ogca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Physical-Distancing-Protocol-Final.pdf>
 - **Canadian Construction Association – COVID-19 Standardized Protocols for All Canadian Construction Sites:** www.cca-acc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CCA-COVID-19-Standardized-Protocols-for-All-Canadian-Construction-Sites-04-16-20.pdf
 - **Public Health Ontario – Construction, Renovation, Maintenance and Design IPAC Checklists, Guides etc.:** www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/infection-prevention-control/crmd