PMCS Requirements for COVID-19

OSHA has published “Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19”. The link to this guidance is at the end of this document. It is not a new standard, but a guidance to help employers evaluate risks on their job sites and the applicable controls and standards including the General Duty Clause (5a1).

General Contractors and Subcontractors will need to comply with the UGC and AGC. They can use OSHA’s Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 publication to develop the following required documents:

UT Austin PMCS requirements for COVID-19:

- A JHA: A daily JHA that includes COVID-19 risks and controls.
- Inspections: General Contractors and Subcontractors to monitor COVID-19 compliance during their daily inspections at projects.
- Training: GCs and Subcontractors must train workers on JHA updates related to COVID-19. It is recommended that a Non-Routine JHA is developed, if workers must work within 6’.

Topics to be included in the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan:

- Basic Infection Prevention Measure required by OSHA – Stricter requirements are encouraged:
  - All workers are required to wear a face mask or respirator.
  - Handwashing – provide a handwashing station, hand sanitizers and trashcans.
  - 6’ – social distancing rule. No handshaking – no touching.
  - Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
  - Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezing.
  - Discourage workers from sharing tools, cell phones and equipment.
  - Routine disinfecting of shared surfaces, equipment, handles, door knobs, handrails and keys.
  - Maintain distance during breaks and lunch.
  - Provides rules for when workers need to wash hands and disinfect surfaces:
    - After removing PPE
    - After using the restroom
    - Before and after eating
    - Before touching nose, eyes and mouth
    - Before touching tools, equipment and common surfaces with bare hands
    - Disinfect boots and other potentially infected items before entering their vehicles.

- Provide direction for workers who may need to seek medical treatment.
- Take steps to limit spread of the respiratory secretions of a person who may have COVID-19.
  - Provide a face mask, if feasible and available to sick workers.
- Implement Workplace controls using the hierarchy of controls:
  - Engineering Controls
  - Administrative Controls
- Safe Work Practices
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Government Publications for Reference and Guidance

Training and Monitoring
- Provide training on your COVID – 19 Preparedness and Response Plan and updated JHA.
- Provide training on proper donning and doffing of PPE.
- Develop a method to monitor workers compliance with requirements.

Resources, print materials and community resources related to COVID-19:

- Texas Health and Human Services – https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm#coronavirus

Other related information:

Review the manufacturer’s website for instructions on how to use their products for COVID-19, such as, cleaners, disinfectants, hand sanitizers and other chemicals and equipment.

- Hand rub sanitizer – Currently the CDC recommends the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as the preferred form of hand hygiene.
- Bleach as a disinfectant – Currently Clorox recommends ½ cup Clorox to 1 gallon of water to disinfect COVID-19.
- If you are sick or caring for someone who is sick: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html

PMCS will update this document regularly as new information, requirements and guidance are provided by the CDC, OSHA, Texas DHSHS, UT-Austin and other regulatory agencies. The requirements in this document are not measures to protect workers but rather slow down the spread of COVID-19.