



NKYHEALTH
NORTHERN KENTUCKY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COVID-19 Guidance for Public Workers and Trade Workers 3-25-2020

Public workers and contractors working in the trade industries need to take steps to protect their health for themselves, but also so they can continue performing essential services in the community. Public service agencies and contractors should implement practices that allow for services to be provided in as safe a manner as feasible during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for those performed in residences.

Recommendations for consideration include:

- When confirming an appointment, ask if anyone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or is suffering from symptoms consistent with the illness (i.e. fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing). If that is the case, reschedule the visit for a later date. Consideration can be placed on emergency calls as appropriate.
- Discuss the details of the job in advance over the phone, or via email or text, to minimize time in the home.
- Be sure that you or your staff who will be entering a home are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Let the customer know you are healthy, and discuss what you will do in order to maintain social distancing and other protective measures.
- Implement a daily health assessment with staff to check for COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, respiratory illness) prior to shift. Exclude staff that exhibit symptoms, and refer them to their medical provider.
- Avoid shaking hands or similar customary greetings during visits. Maintain social distancing during interactions with customers (i.e. 6 ft. separation).
- Perform as much of the service outside the home as is possible.
- Wear personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, boot covers, coveralls and/or disposable gown) during the visit if at all possible. This would be especially warranted if someone in the house is ill and the service is an emergency.
- If emergency service requires entering the home of an ill resident with COVID-19 symptoms, request that the household members wear face masks and isolate themselves away from your service provision area. Workers may want to consider added PPE, such as a facemask and eye protection.
- Refrain from touching items and surfaces in the home that are not necessary during your service.
- Workers should not touch their face, particularly mouth, eyes and nose, with their hands.
- Do not sit down at tables or similar settings. Refuse beverages or food items that may be offered.
- Process payments digitally or by similar means if possible so as to avoid the client from needing to handle pens, papers or other items that would then be handled by the worker.
- Use hand sanitizer (60% or greater alcohol content) immediately after leaving home, and wash hands as soon as possible.

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- Be sure to sanitize vehicles (including steering wheels, door handles, etc.) tools, and similar items on a frequent basis with a product approved as effective against coronavirus..
- Use best judgment during the scheduling and provision of services. It may not be possible to eliminate all risks during the current situation, but they can be greatly reduced.

Additional guidance and information can be found at the included links. Thank you for providing important services for our community, and please take steps to protect your health and that of the public.

CDC COVID-19 Business Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

CDC COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

OSHA COVID-19 Guidance

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste>

Kentucky COVID-19 Webpage

<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

NKY Health COVID-19 Webpage

<https://nkyhealth.org/individual-or-family/health-alerts/coronavirus/>

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