



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building Division

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RE: Construction Site Safety Requirements

Further to the August 28, 2020 City of Kitchener notice on construction site safety and the enhanced Provincial Lockdown measures announced on Jan. 12, 2021, this is to remind customers of the site safety expectations during building inspections. The efforts into supporting site safety is acknowledged and we recommend site supervisors continue to support site safety with these updated inspection protocols.

- The site supervisor is expected to create a safe inspection environment for the building inspector. Any site worker is expected to maintain the min. 6' physical distancing with the building inspector during the entire site inspection at all times.
- On large buildings with multiple workers, the site supervisor or person responsible for safety is to make attempts to clear workers from the floor or suite for the inspection. If this is not possible please notify the building inspector prior to the inspection to discuss a safe inspection procedure.
- The Province of Ontario has updated or provided the COVID-19 guidance last week. Here is where this new or updated information can be found:
 - [Safety plan guide update](#)
 - [Updated construction sector guidance](#)
 - [New guidance on meal and break periods](#)
 - [New guidance on self-isolation and return to work](#)

New workplace screening tools:

- [Worker screening](#)
- [Customer screening](#)

Workplace posters have also been developed to encourage workers to keep up safe habits at work, now available on www.Ontario.ca and here:

- [Break poster](#)
- [Lunch poster](#)
- [Keep it to yourself poster](#)

- The Province of Ontario and Public Health requires a face covering when physical distancing is difficult both indoors or outdoors. If distancing cannot be maintained or is difficult, those attending the inspection must wear a face covering. When workers or occupants are present, our staff will be wearing a medical mask. Eye protection will be worn when it's difficult to maintain 6' distancing. More information on COVID-19 requirements for construction sites is here:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/construction-site-health-and-safety-during-covid-19>
- In areas where it may be difficult to maintain physical distancing (reviewing drawings on site with inspector, within an exit stairwell, an elevator or lift, walking a corridor without clearing the floor) please discuss with the Building Inspector prior to the inspection commencing, to avoid the above noted scenarios.

- The Building Inspector will set expectations for a safe inspection environment with the site super, homeowner or contractor's representative,
- Continue to submit any/all required documentation through email to the project inspector. No hard copies to be remitted on-site,
- The site supervisor or designate, is to email building@kitchener.ca WHEN a site worker tests COVID positive AND the worker was in close contact (within 6') of the City Building Inspector. The notification email to the City must include the site address and inspection date and submitted to the City ASAP.

If the above requirements are not being followed, including the minimum 6' physical distancing, the Building Inspector will provide a verbal warning. If non-compliance occurs again, the Inspector will advise the inspection is over (not passed). A re-inspection will be required. Proper hygiene measures and physical distancing are critical during this time!

Thank you for your ongoing attention and support for public safety as we all work in these non-normal times.

Regards

Mike Seiling
Director, Building

CC: Kitchener Building Inspectors