

What can I do to keep my workers safe at the workplace and limit the spread of COVID-19?

1. Working from home

- Assess who can do their jobs from home. Give those workers the option to do so.
- Provide guidance to your workers on how to set up a safe home work environment (see, for example, [SWA's working from home information and diagrams](#)).
- Require workers to complete a self-assessment checklist to ensure they comply with good ergonomic practices (an example is [Comcare's Working from home checklist](#)).
- Appoint a contact person in your business that workers can talk to about any concerns.
- Set up ways to communicate with workers online (e.g. through Skype or Zoom) and communicate with them daily.
- Provide information to workers about the supports available to them, for example through an employee assistance program.

2. Physical distancing

- Put up posters around the workplace on keeping at least 1.5 metres distance between everyone at the workplace.
- Erect signs at the entrances to lifts and meeting rooms to ensure the maximum safe capacity is not exceeded.
- Move work stations, desks and tables in staffrooms further apart to comply with social distancing.
- If possible, bring in shift arrangements so less staff are in the workplace at once.
- Instruct workers to have meetings by phone or online instead of in person. If not possible, require they meet in a large space and keep meetings short.

- Review regular deliveries and request contactless delivery. Check systems for e-invoicing are in place.
- Provide social distancing markers on the floor in areas where customers line up or where workers perform tasks.
- Nominate a person on the work floor to be responsible for keeping everyone the required 1.5 metre distance apart in accordance with the latest government requirements.

3. Handwashing and hygiene

- Have hand sanitiser stations at entry and exit points and around the workplace.
- Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand wash and paper towel.
- [Put up posters with instructions on how to hand wash/hand rub.](#)
- Instruct workers on other ways to limit the spread of germs, including by not touching their face, sneezing into their elbow, and staying home if feeling sick.
- Have automatic alerts set up on computer systems to remind workers about washing hands and not touching eyes, nose and face
- Instruct your workers to limit contact with others- no shaking hands or touching objects unless necessary.
- If possible, accept only cashless transactions.
- Increase access to closed bins in your workplace.
- Put up signs to request customers only touch objects they are going to buy.

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4. Cleaning

- Ensure any areas frequented by workers or others (e.g. visitors to your premises) are cleaned at least daily with detergent or disinfectant.
- Instruct workers to wear gloves when cleaning and wash their hands thoroughly with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves.
- Clean frequently touched areas and surfaces several times a day with a detergent or disinfectant solution or wipe. This includes Eftpos equipment, elevator buttons, handrails, tables, counter tops, door knobs, sinks and keyboards.
- Instruct workers to clean personal property that comes to work, such as sunglasses, mobile phones and iPads with disinfectant, such as disinfectant wipes.

5. Monitor symptoms

- Put up signs about the symptoms of COVID-19 in the workplace.
- Direct workers to stay home if they are sick, and if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 ask them to call the National Coronavirus hotline (1800 020 080).
- Instruct workers to tell you if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 or have been tested for COVID-19.
- Remind staff of their leave entitlements if they are sick or required to self-quarantine.
- Treat personal information about individual workers' health carefully, in line with privacy laws.

- Facilitate working from home, if possible, for staff who are required to self-quarantine but are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

6. Plan ahead

- Nominate a worker or a team of workers to champion safe practices in the workplace and teach their colleagues the proper procedures listed above.
- Develop a plan to ensure business continuity if there is a suspected or confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 in your workplace.
- Consider what you will do if one of your workers is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, including how you will support that worker and what you need to do to ensure the workplace remains safe for other workers.
- Consider if you have appropriate cleaning products and personal protective equipment available to disinfect your workplace following an outbreak. If you do not, consider options for hiring a cleaning company to do this work.
- Put a protocol in place for reopening your workplace after an outbreak or quarantine period.

Stay informed

Download the official government "Coronavirus Australia" app, or join the [WhatsApp channel](#) and frequently check for updates.