

## JHSC Training Exemptions

The Ministry of Labour, Training Skills Development has recognized the challenges at this time to access training at this time.

They are allowing Joint Health and Safety learners to apply for a one-time exemption for Part 2 Certification training or it allows fully certified JHSC members to apply for a one-time exemption from Refresher training. All requests are evaluated by the Health and Safety Program Administration and Certification Unit.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification (JHSC) Training Program – Extension Or Exemption Request form can be accessed on line by [clicking here](#).

## COVID Sector Guidance Documents

Resources are available for to help employers and workers better understand how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD), four provincial Health and Safety Associations have released a series of more than 50 technical sector guidance documents to further support employers and employees in remaining safe in the workplace during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Sector guidelines contain recommendations and tips for employers on how to keep workers safe on the job.

Posters for both employers and workers also offer advice on preventative actions, including physical distancing and workplace sanitation. Employers are encouraged to download the posters to print and post in the workplace.

As new sectors of the economy begin to reopen, additional COVID-19 workplace safety resources will be added.

Resources

[H&S Sector Specific Guidelines](#)

MLTSD: [Sector Specific Posters for Employers/Employees](#)

Federal: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)

Provincial: [Think you might have COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)?](#)

Public Health: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)



## Test Yourself

First Correct answer wins a prize – answer to be published on the web site.

If an employer is advised that a worker has tested positive for COVID-19 due to exposure at the workplace the employer is required to notify whom?

Send your answer by email to: [newsletter@safetyscope.net](mailto:newsletter@safetyscope.net)

## This Months Tip: JHSC

Ensure workers and visitors are aware of preventive practices and visually confirm that workers are complying with guidance.

If you normally have worker and management JHSC members conducting the inspections together, reduce this to just the a worker member in order to keep physical distancing and employee safety in mind.

JHSC can designate onsite staff to conduct physical inspections, in case a JHSC worker member is not available to carry out the inspections

## Think about it.

### Safetyscope Upcoming courses

<b>Working at Heights</b>	TBA
<b>W@H refresher</b>	TBA
<b>Confined Space Awareness</b>	TBA
<b>Confined Space Rescue</b>	TBA
<b>First Aid</b>	TBA
<b>Competent Supervisor</b>	TBA

**Contact Us** with your training needs [training@safetyscope.net](mailto:training@safetyscope.net)



**Ministry of Labour,  
Training and Skills  
Development**



## Workplace Social Distancing Tools

Social Distancing – the term that has taken the world by storm and is transforming the way we live.

This way of living / working has been forced upon us by the fastest growing pandemic the world has ever seen – COVID-19. Social distancing is fundamentally unnatural, especially when you're in a workplace where you know your colleagues.

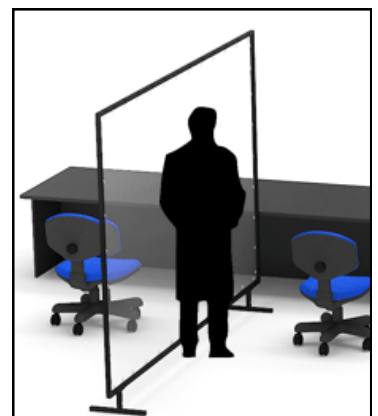
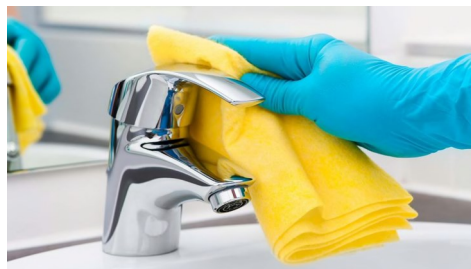
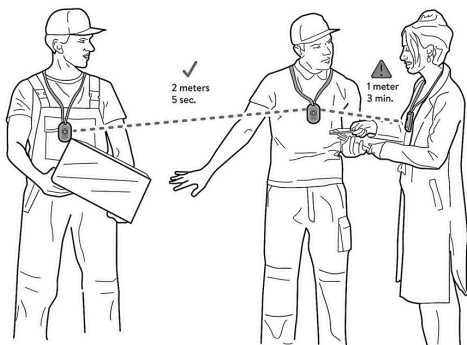
The employer has to do everything reasonable which starts with a workplace risk assessment. This assessment is not limited to the site, it has to include transportation to and from the workplace including halls and elevators. This risk assessment will result in company Covid 19 Policies and Procedures.

Prior to any worker arriving training must be completed. Promoting proper workplace sanitation, providing personal protective equipment, substituting dry dusting with vacuuming, ensuring customer-facing staff are given hand sanitizer, providing a place to dispose of sanitizing wipes, and enforcing handwashing before and after breaks, avoiding close contact with people who are ill and avoiding touching your face. But there is a difference between knowing what actions can reduce transmission of the virus and putting them into practice.

Before you even enter the workplace you may have realized that not everyone is taking the advice being provided by the experts. Some workers have indicated that they are frustrated as people are not respecting their bubble. Perhaps this is not a deliberate action but these too can be controlled. You need to give people feedback to adjust their behaviours

As the conversation had turned to making workplaces safe enough for employees to return, technology firms have developed tools and wearables that could potentially make the unnatural concept of social distancing at work easier. These wearables alert the workers with light and sound if they get too close to one another. They are not a solution but possibly another tool that can be used in conjunction with signage, barriers, PPE, communication staggered shifts and wall/floor markings.

You need to evaluate the controls that are in place, talk to workers, listen to their concerns and find ways to work together safely.



## Re-Opening 101

Sooner or later, we have to go back to work. Some of us can't wait, and some of us are kind of enjoying the current situation, and all of us have a lot of questions about how we "return to normal". The province is currently developing guidelines for various industries, and we know that the return will be a phased one, with some heading back before others. Sometimes, various branches of government say different things and sometimes the focus seems to shift from being primarily on health and safety to being primarily on the economic impact. Uncertain times, confusing times – and if all you would like is a little direction, it's hard to know where to look.

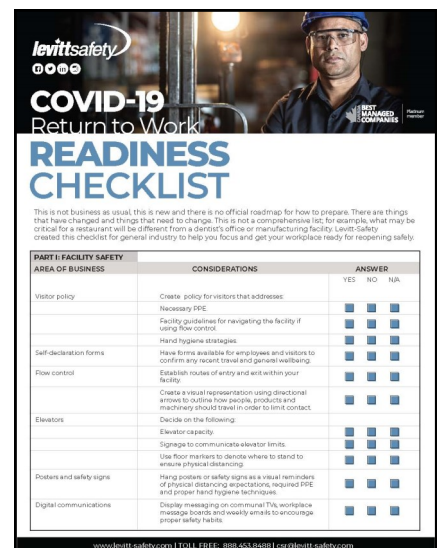
To begin, there are two very different kinds of workplaces in Ontario – those that "work" by opening their doors and inviting the public in (restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, retail operations, etc.), and those that operate on a "workers only" basis (manufacturing, mining, etc.). Which are you? Essentially, do you have to protect your employees, or do you also have to protect your customers? Or, some of each. Enforcing rules, such as social distancing, mandatory masks or face shields, temperature checks at the door, etc., are a lot easier in a "workers only" environment.

Typically, start with thinking about workers. The key is communication – let your workers know what the new rules will be, well before they come back. Better, have them in policy format, and email or mail them out ahead of time. Make sure everyone knows about the new rules for re-opening, as well as what will happen if they cannot comply. Put your policies on line, with your other policies – no surprises. Figure out which of those policies can also make sense for any clients or customers who may come into the workplace, and advertise that on your company web-page. "We are open. If you want to visit us, here are some new rules during this challenging time." If you rent space, ask your landlord for details of any changes regarding access to the building (changes to parking, elevator use, mail and package delivery, cleaning, and visitor access), and let workers and customers know.

Understand that you will miss something. So, have a plan for meeting, discussing and generating a new policy and procedure on the fly, and quickly. Until you actually re-open after a pandemic, it is all new, and even the experts are going by theory. Do your best, be kind and remember that no one misses an important issue on purpose.

Many of our clients are in the thick of re-opening. And some, like Levitt Safety, are willing to share their ideas with us. Levitt has created a readiness checklist to help ensure you have the proper protocols in place including:

- Facility safety
- Hygiene
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Training, certificates and policies
- Equipment maintenance
- New technologies
- Employee support



[Click on this link](#) to access their readiness checklist and see if some of what they are looking at makes sense for you. And, if you already have a plan, or part of a plan, that works, we would be happy to post a link to it on our web page. Just send it to: [info@safetyscope.net](mailto:info@safetyscope.net). More than ever, we are in this together.

## Alert: Silica Exposure

An alert has been issued April 27, 2020 by the MLTSD for workers who manufacture, finish, and install natural and manufactured stone countertops may be at risk of lung damage.

There is a growing worldwide concern that working with stone countertops and exposure to crystalline silica can rapidly lead to severe disease. This may be because of:

- the high amount of crystalline silica in these countertops
- lack of proper controls in workplaces where this exposure occurs

Airborne silica dust particles can become trapped in the lungs resulting in permanent damage (silicosis). Carex Canada has reported that workers exposed to silica may also be at increased risk for other diseases such as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease.

Exposure can occur at the:

- manufacturing facility
- jobsite during installation

Housekeeping and maintenance workers in workplaces where stone countertops containing crystalline silica are made may also be at risk of exposure.

For more information and precautions [Click Here](#)

## Safetyscope Continuing to Maintaining Registration as an OWWCO Training Provider

These courses meet the criteria in subsection 29(4) of O.Reg. 128, Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts. On Completion of training all participants will receive a certificate of completion with corresponding CEU Value.

1. Working at Heights	.7 CEU
2. WHMIS 2015	.4 CEU
3. TDG	.4 CEU
4. Working in Confined Spaces Rescue Level	2.8 CEU
5. Confined Spaces Attendant Non Entry	1.3 CEU
6. Confined Spaces Advanced Awareness	.7 CEU
7. Confined Spaces Attendant Refresher	.7 CEU
8. Confined Spaces Rescue Refresher	.7 CEU
9. Standard First Aid	1.4 CEU
10. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	.4 CEU
11. Spill Response	.7 CEU
12. Trenching Hazards	.4 CEU



**Safetyscope is a TSSA Approved Training Provider**

**Safetyscope is an approved provider for Corrections Canada**