

Safety Tips

Construction Site Temperature-Taking

Temperature- taking or “temp checks” are required by the CDC if you have had a confirmed case on your site or if you have a “presumed” case on your site. Your legal counsel may advise you to implement temp checks to reduce exposure to law suits; however, there are serious practical challenges to doing so (time, bottleneck of workers waiting, etc.).

It is advisable to prepare a plan for temp checks in case you need to implement them and to purchase the necessary equipment in advance. [Med-TEX](#) is advising that temp checks be accompanied by a few questions regarding exposure, although this is currently not required. For larger sites, it may be worth purchasing digital body temperature scanners ([click for an example](#)), which can be installed in a kiosk and reduce the risk of congregating workers. Such scanners are available but take 8 weeks to get.

Face Covering Issues

Face coverings with glasses are becoming more and more challenging as spring and summer bring higher outdoor temperatures. Workers are sweating, their protective glasses are fogging, and the face coverings remain wet all day.

Since most sites are requiring masks or face coverings be worn all the time, Med-TEX recommends using a t-shirt fabric, rather than a spandex or synthetic type. OSHA is still allowing and promoting hand-made and almost any type of face coverings that can be washed daily. Wipes are available to reduce fogging and shaving cream or soap and water on the glasses also help. In extreme cases where the task can't be modified and the space is confined and humid, hard hats with small face shields are a good choice (they look more like a climber's helmet). There are two brands on the market – Cairns and MSA. Both brands have a smoked version and a clear version.



Fit testing

N95 and other masks that obstruct breathing technically qualify as respirators. Respirators per OSHA require what's called a "fit test." It's a pulmonary function test to ensure it is safe for a worker to wear a respirator. These tests were not available during the shutdown but they are now.

As much as we are doing in the interest to keep people safe, try to remember or remind your teams in the field that some individuals might not be fit to wear respirators. They really should be tested. Allergies, asthma, and other lung diseases or issues are so treatable today that you may not be aware that a worker has an issue. Test your workers if they need to wear respirators.