

# Harm reduction worker safety during the COVID-19 global pandemic

## NATIONAL RAPID GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS - DURING A SHIFT

THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE A PROVIDER'S CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS.

VERSION 2 GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

### Staff Should:

- Be **screened for COVID-19 symptoms** and possible exposures when entering the site by designated screening staff. Staff with symptoms should be tested for COVID-19.
- For Screeners: **wear appropriate PPE** and **keep a 2m distance** from those entering the site.
- Practice **frequent hand hygiene** - before and after any physical contact, contact with body fluids and with shared surfaces and before and after donning and doffing PPE.
- **Don PPE appropriately.**
- For Cleaning Staff: **frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces** using appropriate Health Canada approved products. Launder items (soft surfaces) or wipe off any visible dirt using soap and water (hard surfaces).
- Be aware and **monitor for signs of heat stress** due to prolonged PPE use and take breaks as needed. Staff should also **be aware and respond to stressors** that may have a negative impact on their mental health and well-being.
- If appropriate, **inform clients about the importance of wearing masks.**

### Clients Should:

- **Wear a medical face mask at all times** while in a harm reduction facility.
- Practice **frequent hand hygiene**.
- **Be screened for COVID-19 symptoms** and possible exposures when entering in the site by a designated staff member.
  - If **screen positive**: wear a medical mask (provided on site), sanitize hands, be placed in a separate waiting area and be advised on how to appropriately self-isolate and access a testing facility.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment  
AGMP: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures



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