

The following includes a consensus around what can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We encourage you to train and educate your team to address the points listed below. The guidance will be updated as information becomes available.



## USING PPE

Appropriate PPE is the new normal. While there is some debate about which PPE is appropriate for certain situations, most of the resources recommend some facial covering, such as a dust or surgical mask. Gloves, such as nitrile or task specific gloves are important to protect your hands from high-touch surfaces that might contain active virus, especially if you have any open wounds, cuts or abrasions on your hands.

## REDUCE RISK FOR YOU AND YOUR CUSTOMERS

At the time of the writing, N95 masks are a point of concern for our industry. Generally speaking, there are only a few situations where N95s are required for home performance work. For instance if you're dealing with a higher risk customer (55+ or asthmatic etc), you should wear an N95 or better, add physical barriers, take extra precautions to separate that at-risk person from potentially getting infected.

Similarly, if you are a higher risk category worker (55+ or have immuno compromised children), you might wear a N95, and remove clothing in your garage and/or separate work clothes from home washing to keep your family safe.

## HANDLING PPE

There are lots of useful visuals to help train your workers on how to remove gloves, etc. And there are instructions on how to store and launder or dispose of used PPE. This is a level of detail our crews are not used to and it is an area where lack of attention to detail can really make a difference. This is another topic that requires specific planning and worker training.

## HEALTH SCREENING



All of us should establish routines with both our workers and our customers to get them to report any symptoms of the virus. Several of the guidance documents have good summaries of appropriate steps to take to screen employees' health.

## REMOTE WORK



Any work we can do remotely, we should do. While we haven't figured out how to get customers to do their own blower door tests, contractors are finding more and more innovative ways to get work done remotely. And these innovations may lead to new less-intrusive practices that last beyond the pandemic. The courses in our [COVID-19 Related Training Resources](#) offer some guidelines but we would like to hear from you about the innovative procedures you have developed.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING



Distancing is crucial whether it in the office, warehouse, in a truck going to a worksite, while taking a lunch break or performing work in a home. As we all should know by now, the magic distance recommended by the CDC is 6 feet. If possible, add even more distance between you and others. Some of the resources recommend both physical distancing and basic PPE (masks and gloves) just in case two workers stray too close to each other, or a home occupant walks unexpectedly into a work zone. Some of the resources recommend both basic PPE and physical distancing, including adding a barrier such as a plastic shield to protect homeowners from entering the workzone.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING



Cleaning and disinfecting are also part of the new normal. But given the nature of our industry, guidance on this topic is complicated. A few points are universal, such as washing hands correctly and using EPA-approved disinfectants. But the details at the jobsite get complicated. Several of the webinars and courses offer very useful guidance on how to apply these principles to the truck, home, tools, equipment or materials being taken into the home. They also cover ways to clean up when you leave. This is a topic that requires specific planning and worker training.