

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

# COVID Safety Seminar

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# Introduction



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# Occupational Health and Safety Act

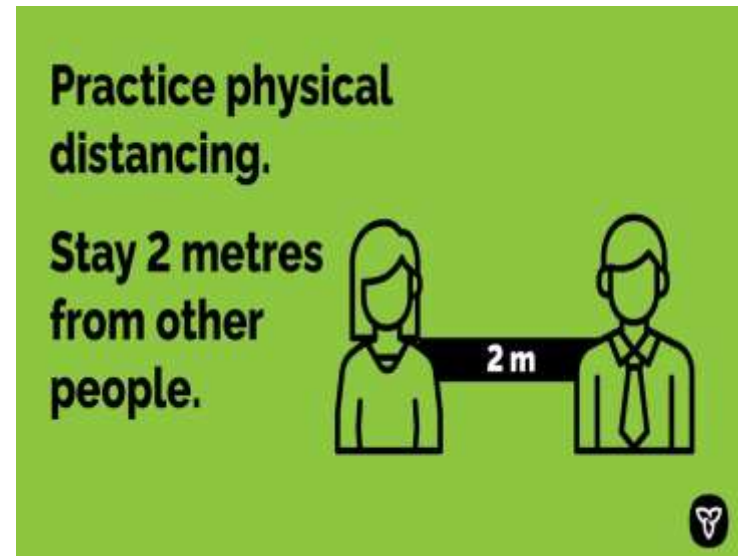
- Employers and workers in Ontario have certain duties and rights under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations.
- Under Ontario's labour laws, employers must take **every reasonable precaution** to protect the health and safety of workers. This includes protecting workers from hazards posed by infectious diseases.
- Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work.
- Employers should also review and follow any applicable directives and guidance coming from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Health.
- [Learn about the OHSA, how to stay safe on the job and your rights during COVID-19.](#)



# Best Practices

At this time, the [key activities needed to minimize the risk](#) of passing on the COVID-19 virus at work are:

- Screening and supporting people with symptoms to self-isolate
- Ensuring a physical distance of 2 metres or more is maintained between people
- Disinfecting surfaces and objects
- Maintaining good hygiene, particularly handwashing, good cough/sneeze etiquette and reminders not to touch the face
- Working with the local public health unit if any workers have COVID-19 or are exposed to someone with COVID-19



## Best Practices: Making a plan

What to think about as you plan for how to operate safely during COVID-19

### Workplace Safety Plan

- [Safety plan guidance](#)
- [Safety plan template](#)

### Screening

- How will you make sure workers and customers don't have COVID-19 symptoms?

### Preventing transmission

- How will you control the risks of COVID-19 transmission at your workplace?

### Dealing with cases and self-isolation

- What will you do if a worker gets sick or has to self-isolate?

### Dealing with other risks

- What other issues might your workplace face because of the changes?

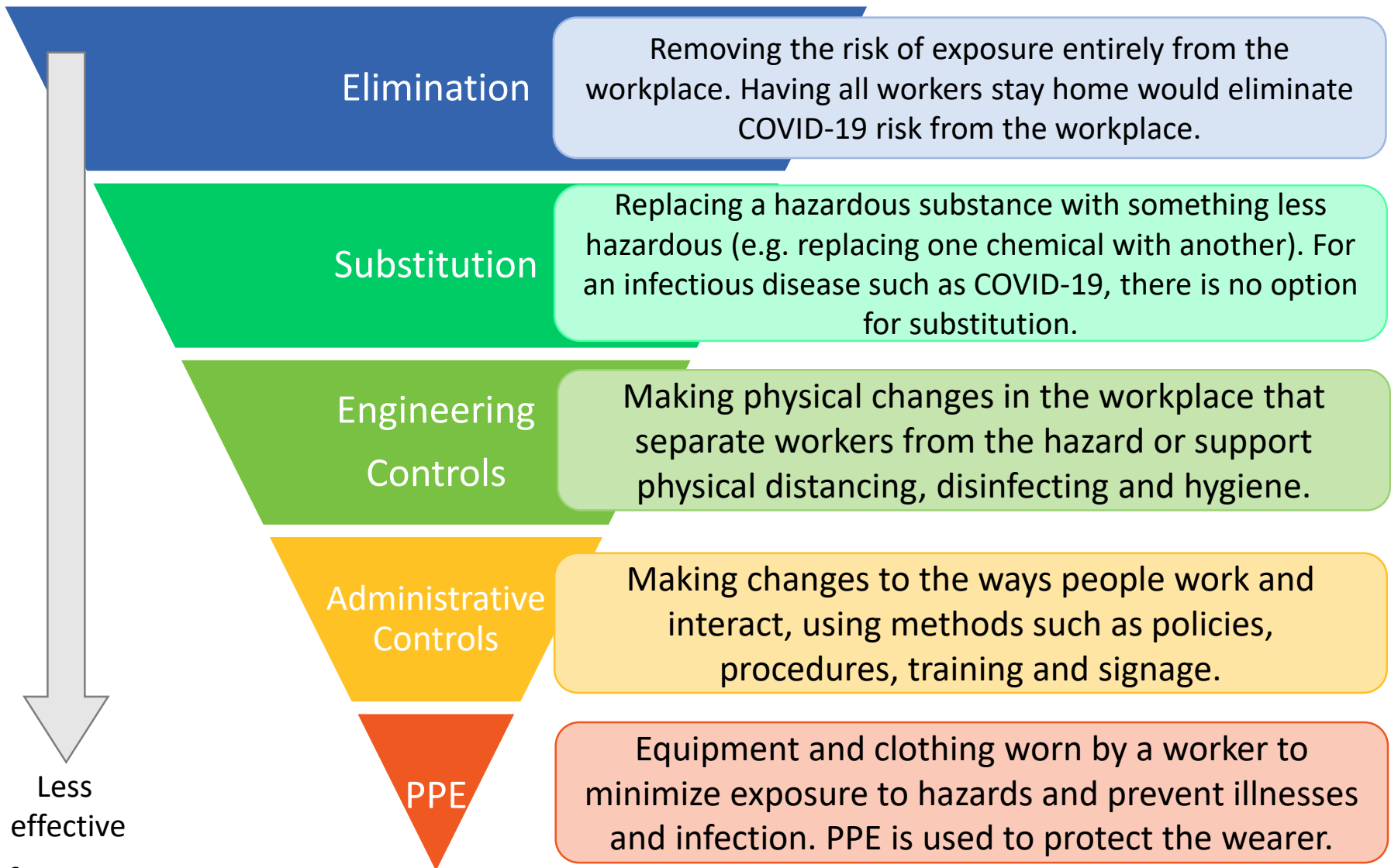
### Communicating

- How will your workers and the public know how to keep themselves safe?
- How will they know what steps you are taking?

### Learning and adapting

- How will you know what is working and what needs to change?

## Preventing transmission: Hierarchy of controls



# Workplace Guidance Documents & Other Resources



**General workplace guidance documents:**  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace>



## Workplace safety plan

[Safety plan guidance](#) & [Safety plan template](#)

**General information:** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

**Health-related information, Public Health Ontario:**

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

**Framework for reopening our province:**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19>.



## Support from the Public Sector Health and Safety Association

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) remains in effect in response to and recovery from the COVID pandemic.

- To ensure compliance with obligations under this act, MAG has engaged with Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) to provide support as court operations resume.
- PSHSA is funded by MLTSD and works with Ontario's public and broader public sector employers and workers, providing training, consulting and resources to reduce workplace risks and prevent occupational injuries and illnesses.

PSHSA has the expertise and resources to support the resumption of court activities through the recovery phase of the pandemic. Their highly experienced consultants and subject matter experts are working with MAG to accurately assess the court's health and safety needs.

Potential risks will be identified through a risk assessment completed for each courthouse that will be completed by the PSHSA with the assistance of local managers.

- The results of this risk assessment will be shared with the local joint health and safety committee.
- The risk assessments will take into consideration a myriad of factors at each site, whether internal or external, which may affect ability to resume in-person hearings.