



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

THE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL'S ROLE IN PLANNING FOR A PANDEMIC

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COVID-19 will likely be one of the most challenging risks that we as safety and health professionals experience in our entire careers.





Our company leaders want answers.

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) professionals are well positioned to provide those answers.

How?



1. Anticipate needs

1

Keep up with the employer COVID-19 guidance and your local data

2

Prepare an outline of the efforts in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19

3

Consider scenarios that could occur and how you may solve them

4

Identify critical safety supplies and the potential supply chain



2. Credible guidance

- SARS CoV-2 is a new risk
- Data will evolve. This is what we know now.
- Use primary sources



Critically evaluate research

- 
- What is the study showing?
 - Why does it matter?
 - Is there anything missing?
 - How was the data gathered?
 - Who is supporting the study?
 - What other ideas exist?

3. Informed risk analysis

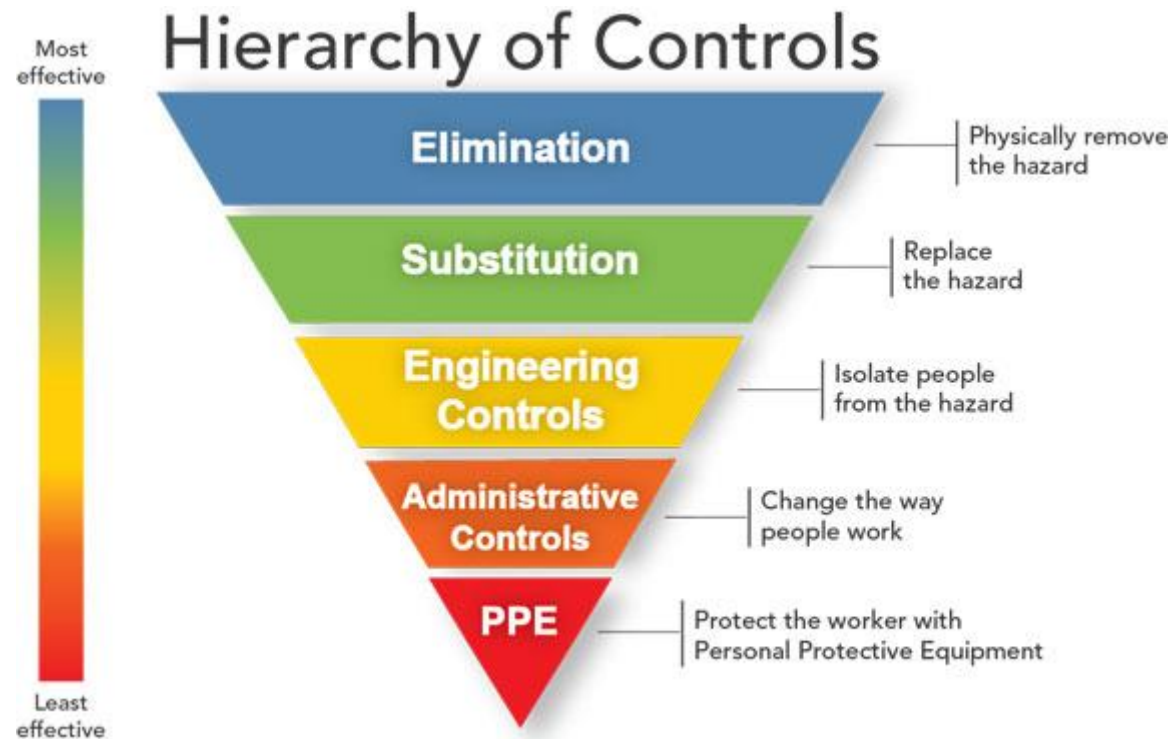
- Risk assessment needed for high or moderate risk COVID-19 exposures
- Based on local data and the work configuration
- Consider work that could be done differently or eliminated
- Reevaluate as the COVID-19 information improves



4. Practical solutions

- Based on the Hierarchy of Controls
- Appropriate to the industry
- Include local requirements
- Don't create other risks to the worker
- Consider the long-term viability

Determining workplace controls for COVID 19



<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>



Engineering Controls

Ventilation system
– preventive
maintenance,
increase fresh air

Barriers -
plexiglass, solid
or rolling

5. Modify existing pandemic plans based on learnings

- Based on what has been learned so far
- Additional local or state requirements
- Consider the long-term solutions that mitigate the risks
 - ✓ New layouts that allow for distancing
 - ✓ Touchless design
 - ✓ Telework ergonomics



**When will the
pandemic be over?**

Be a go to resource...



Anticipate
needs



Credible
guidance



Informed
risk
analysis



Practical
solutions



Use
learnings
to modify
the plan

A close-up, artistic photograph of a luxury wristwatch. The watch has a dark, possibly black or dark grey, dial with a fine, pebbled texture. The hour markers are simple, rectangular silver-toned tabs. The hands are also silver-toned with a sleek, modern design. The watch is set within a polished metal case, likely stainless steel, which is visible at the top and left edges. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the upper right, creating highlights on the metal and the dial's texture, while the rest of the watch and the background are in deep shadow.

This is our time to shine!

Questions?

References

- <https://www.assp.org/resources/covid-19/latest-resources>
- <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/resources>
- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- <https://www.backtoworksafely.org/>
- https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/2019_ncov_businesses.html
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

