Chemung County Health Department
COVID-19: Infection Prevention

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Chemung County Health Department

For most employers, protecting workers will depend on emphasizing basic infection prevention measures. As appropriate, all employers should implement good hygiene and infection control practices, including:

Employee Screening: Screen all staff. Ask if they are experiencing a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Take their temperature. If it is higher than 100.4 send them home. If their symptoms worsen or persist ask them to call their health care provider. Give them the *You Have a Fever Now What* fact sheet.

Handwashing: Promote frequent and thorough hand washing by providing workers, customers, and worksite visitors with a place to wash their hands. If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol or hand sanitizer.

Stay home: Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.

Encourage respiratory etiquette: Including covering coughs and sneezes. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue then throw it away or use the crook of your elbow.

Tissues and trash: Provide staff, customers, and the public with tissues and trash receptacles.

Adopt policies creating space: Employers should explore whether they can establish policies and practices, such as flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts), to increase the physical distance among employees and between employees and others to promote social distancing. If you have to meet with a client maintain a six foot distance. Utilize tape on the floor or space out interview areas. Employees should not congregate. There should be no water cooler discussions and remove chairs from breakrooms to maintain a six foot distance.
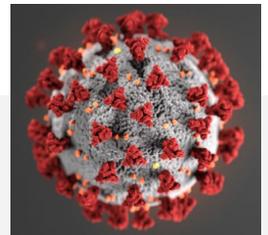
No sharing: Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.

Barriers: Install physical barriers if possible. Rearrange waiting areas and meeting rooms to create space. Offer drive up services, electronic submission of documents, and online alternatives.

Cancel Non-essential Services: if possible postpone meetings, appointments, services that can be put on hold. Ask yourself if the service is absolutely necessary.

Clean: Maintain regular housekeeping practices, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment. When choosing cleaning chemicals, employers should consult information on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved disinfectant labels with claims against emerging viral pathogens.

Masks: It is not necessary to wear a mask at work. Surgical ear loop masks do not provide protection against viruses. If you maintain a six foot social distance and good hygiene practices that will protect you.

Questions?
Chemung County COVID-19 Hotline at 607-873-1816
NYSDOH COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-364-3065