

Important and Urgent information

Date: 11 April 2020

To: All CCNZ Members

**Subject – COVID 19 Safe restart and operations under Level 3,
Advanced copy of Draft framework**

CCNZ has been working intensely with members and other industry associations and client representatives to develop a Standard and Protocols that will enable the industry to quickly transition to and safely work under COVID Level 3.

The goal is a single standard which will be applied across the industry and therefore avoid multiple different interpretations of what is required to operate under Level 3.

We are working hard to have the Standard (the what we need to do) and Protocols (guidance on the how) finalised and accepted by Construction Health and Safety NZ, the Construction Accord, Worksafe and Government as soon as possible. **We now expect the documents to be completed towards the end of next week (around 16 or 17 April).**

Many contractors are already well into planning their restart. I have therefore **attached for your information an advanced draft of the first few pages of the Protocol which includes the framework the civil construction industry will be working under in Level 3. It covers the key issues you will need to address in company and site plans.** The final protocol will link to further resources.

Key issues when planning your restart:

1. Each site will need a COVID 19 Plan.
2. This is not a typical restart. Plan and communicate with your client, head contractor, subbies and staff. Think Post-Christmas restart with the added complexity of managing COVID 19. Staff will need to be inducted to the new requirements.
3. Apply your usual risk assessment thought processes to COVID 19 risks.
4. Hygiene, health monitoring, physical distancing/separation and tracing need to be key aspects of your site plan.
5. You may need to install new signage, new hygiene stations and maybe reconfigure your site to provide separation before everyone comes back.
6. With the new COVID 19 physical distancing requirements consider how you will induct people back on to site.

7. Consider undertaking activities that are associated with or on the critical path. It is expected that many sites will have a reduced workforce.
8. Remember some staff members may need support. They may be worried about returning to work, may have vulnerable family members or may want to wear additional PPE (e.g. masks). Support those people.
9. Consider total separation of teams where possible and potentially reduce the numbers of people you have on each site – if one of your staff gets infected it will prevent all your staff being at home for a 14-day isolation!
10. Minimise visitors to site.
11. Remember PPE use is one of the lower levels of control. Wearing of masks will not be mandatory but will be part of a suite of tools used to manage critical risks. Some staff may want to wear masks anyway.

Remember how well you manage COVID 19 will impact on the future ability of your staff to work and your site to operate. Once we get to Alert Level 3 it is important that everyone supports and complies with the new Construction Industry COVID 19 Standard and Protocols so that we avoid returning to Alert Level 4 and give ourselves the best chance possible of moving back to Alert Levels 2 and 1 as soon as possible.

I will send you the complete Construction Industry Covid 19 Standard and Protocol as soon as they are finalised, and we will present further information on the CCNZ website as it becomes available.

Keep safe. Regards



Peter Silcock
Chief Executive