BETHECHANGE^a

Pandemic Workspace Policy

Updated as of May 7, 2020 All public health adapted recommendations are current to this date.

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This document was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that started in early 2020. It is updated frequently as the situation changes and evolves, with the recommendations from B.C. provincial public health officers and the Vancouver Coastal Health Chief Medical Health Officer, and guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organization (WHO). Hopefully, the precautions and knowledge that come out of this pandemic will help to prevent future ones. In the case that another pandemic should affect the world, you can use this document to assist in future back-to-work plans.

Workplaces are naturally a place of increased risk of infection and transmission of viruses, both novel and common. We're close together, touching surfaces, gossiping at the water cooler, etc. It's important to assess your workplace to see what kinds of risks are posed that could potentially enhance the rate of transmission, and to find solutions to decrease your risk.

This is our attempt to mitigate illness-related risk in our workplace. If you have any questions or concerns about coming back to work with these guidelines in place, please contact Be the Change Group President and Co-Founder Dr. Natalie Chan, or CEO and Co-Founder Brandy Svendson.







Symptom screening

Symptoms of illness in pandemics may differ from one another, or they may be the same. The information in this policy under symptoms screening will be adapted for each specific pandemic as follows:

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

The symptoms of COVID-19 infection are very similar to the symptoms of other common respiratory illnesses like the cold and the flu. If you have any of the following symptoms, please notify your team, your manager, and Brandy and Natalie:

- Fever (≥38.0 C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore throat and painful swallowing
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have any of these symptoms, you are not permitted to come to the office for any reason, and arrangements will be made to support you in working from home when you feel well enough to do so.

It is expected that you will self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days according to public health guidelines.

Quarantine vs. self-isolation

Different jurisdictions have different definitions of self isolation and quarantine. In B.C., self-isolation is the opportunity given to us to isolate at home. Self-isolation means you stay at home and avoid situations where you could come into contact with others. It means you don't go to work, school, or public areas, and you do not use public transport or taxis, and you have friends, family, or neighbours to help deliver medications, groceries, or other things that you need to stay at home. Should you need to seek medical care, you should wear a mask or face covering to see a doctor or to go to an emergency department. If you are unable to self-isolate, you may need to be quarantined at a designated quarantine centre, especially if you are returning from recent travels and do not have a self-isolation plan.

BCCDC guide to self-isolation:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Self-isolation.pdf

If you develop symptoms while at work

Put a covering over your mouth (a mask, scarf, bandana, etc.), notify Brandy and Natalie immediately, tidy up your belongings, and go home. Your team lead will disinfect your station to reduce the need for you to touch more surfaces. If you have a mask and gloves, you're welcome to clean up your desk instead.

If you feel very sick, you may want to consult your family doctor or, if you don't have one, consider attending the urgent primary care centre closest to you.

What about seasonal allergies that cause a runny nose?

We understand that many people get regular seasonal allergies, especially in the spring and summer. It may be difficult to differentiate whether you are experiencing allergies or mild symptoms of COVID-19. In these cases, we would like you to have a discussion with Brandy and Natalie to assess if you can come into the office or if we will have a waiting period before you can come into the office.

When can I come back to work?

This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and guided by public health guidelines.

Symptom resources:

- 1. BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <u>https://bc.thrive.health/</u>
- 2. BC only: 811 line to speak with a nurse if you are experiencing mild symptoms or have questions.
- 3. BCCDC How to self-isolate: <u>http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Self-isolation.pdf</u>

Community Self-Isolation Guidelines, **April 29, 2020**: COVID-19 cases managed exclusively in the community can be cleared from isolation and considered to be no longer infectious when all of the following criteria are met:

- A. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms, AND
- B. Fever has resolved without use of fever-reducing medication, AND
- C. Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved

Coughing may persist for several weeks and does not mean an individual is infectious and needs to self-isolate.



COVID-19 testing

We recommend that if you have any symptoms that are concerning for COVID-19, you call your family doctor or walk-in clinic to find out if they offer testing for COVID-19. You can also attend a testing centre which can be found here: <u>https://experience.arcgis.com/</u>



COVID-19 negative test

We know that currently the sensitivity of the COVID-19 test is not 100%. What this means is that it cannot detect all COVID-19 cases, so there is a possibility that the test is a false negative. What this means for you:

- 1. On a weekly basis, we will continue to follow public health recommendations on returning to work to ensure everyone's health and safety.
- 2. If you have symptoms, you will continue to work from home.
- 3. If you have any positive COVID-19 contacts, you will continue to work from home for a minimum of 14 days or as public health officers recommend (if different).
- 4. If you have only a residual cough and no other symptoms, and have been assessed to be safe to return to work, you must wear a mask until your residual cough is resolved.



COVID-19 positive test

What happens if an employee or a contractor tests positive for COVID-19?

For anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, we ask that prior to returning to work they have their family doctor provide a medical note confirming that they are safe to return to work.

Who is affected if an employee or contractor tests positive for COVID-19?

Anyone who has been in direct contact with the individual confirmed positive is considered exposed. Direct contact means that you have spent more than five minutes within six feet (-two metres) of that individual.

Anyone considered to have been in direct contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be asked to wear a mask or a secure face covering at work for 10 days. If you develop any symptoms during that time, please advise your manager and do not come to work. You should get tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home.

After 10 days, if no symptoms develop, you can stop wearing a mask/ face covering.

What if I have a household contact/roommate who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Anyone with a household contact who has tested positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 14 days as per public health guidelines. If you develop symptoms during this time, you should get tested for COVID-19 and then isolate for a minimum of 10 days until symptoms resolve.



Health concerns

In general, if anyone has particular health concerns that make them particularly vulnerable or worried in regards to COVID-19, please bring them up with Natalie or Brandy. It remains important to us that, if you feel uncomfortable working in the office, we make efforts to address your concerns. We will work with you to find a solution.

What if I am pregnant?

At this time, as according to public health guidelines, there is no evidence that women who are pregnant or their fetuses are at greater risk due to COVID-19. Please ensure that you practice good hand hygiene and remain physically distanced when at work.

What if I am immunocompromised or fall under the "at increased risk" category?

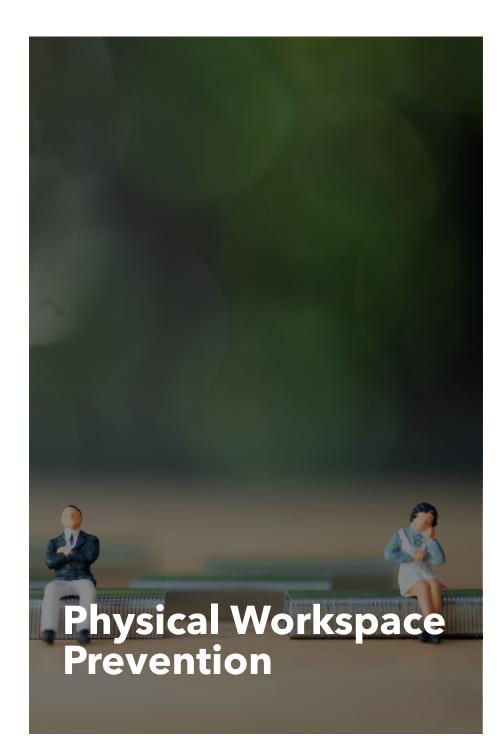
At this time, given the small size of our staff and the ability to physically distance, we feel that it is safe for our team to return to work. However, you may want to increase your use of personal protective equipment such as disposable gloves. Please ensure that you practice good hand hygiene at work. If you have further concerns or would like to discuss different work options, please speak with Brandy and Natalie to see how this may be accommodated.



Vaccinations

We do not have a mandatory vaccination policy. However, we do recommend that employees and consultants try to stay up to date with their vaccinations. This includes:

- Reviewing if they have received all childhood vaccinations
- Reviewing the following adult booster vaccines:
 - Measles, mumps, rubella
 - Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)
 - Tetanus (every 10 years)
 - Annual influenza
 - Pneumococcal (if you are at risk)





Maximum capacity

Office total capacity: 22 people

The following capacity chart is for maximum capacity separately, not combined.

Location	Sitting capacity (persons)	Standing capacity (persons)
Be the Change Group	4	6
Emily Cooper	3	4
Be the Change Group "Design and Development"	5	5
David Cooper	3	3
Upstairs conference room	4	4
Kitchen	4	4
Photography studio	N/A	6
Kitchen and photography studio	N/A	8
Stairs	l person at a time; no passing	

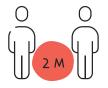


Building entry

Upon entering the building, you will be instructed to immediately wash your hands in the kitchen or bathroom sink, without touching anything on your way there. Proper hand washing is essential in combating viruses, so please refer to the Hand Hygiene section below.

If you do not have a key to the building, and you need to be let in, please ring the buzzer and someone will assist you. Stand two metres from the door and wait for them to unlock it, and retreat from the entry before coming in. At no point should there be more than one person in the entry hallway.

Once you have washed your hands and are ready for work, you can proceed to your work station.



Physical distancing while at work

Physical distancing does not end when you enter your workplace, and remains essential and effective in reducing infectious disease transmission. In order to operate under physical distancing, people must be at least two metres away from each other at all times. This means that some behaviours are currently suspended. Unfortunately, we'll need to refrain from engaging in the following activities while at work:

• Handshaking

- Hugging
- Walking close together
- Catching up with a co-worker next to their desk
- Sliding down the stair rail

Our multi-faceted building houses a few different businesses, and serves different purposes. In order to keep all four of these businesses running safely, we have created a maximum capacity and flow organization for the building. We have established a capacity for sitting and standing room in each section of the building based on calculations made using the area of our office and studio (by square metres). We are very fortunate to be situated in a building that is quite spacious and provides for a lot of open air, which, apart from being generally nice to work in, actually helps to decrease the chance of spreading infections.

As our building is not open to the public, all who enter are required to abide by this policy and maintain the safety of our space. If management identifies any individual to be purposely disregarding the Pandemic Workspace Policies as outlined here, they will be asked to leave the premises immediately and their behaviour will be documented, and, if applicable, discussed with their employer. If they exhibit a serious lack of concern for others' safety, they will not be allowed back into the building unless an agreement is reached. Please keep in mind that our workplace does have individuals who are at higher-risk of having a serious COVID-19 infection; just because someone looks healthy, does not mean they are not compromised.

It is important to remember that we are all in this together, and our individual actions create a safe space for all.

Be the Change Group has two office spaces in the building. The "Research and Communications" office allows for four people to safely sit at their work stations, and our "Design and Development" office allows for five; as such, no current employees will need to shift their work stations to other areas. Should you need to exit or enter a room where others are, please keep your distance and walk, if possible, around the perimeter of the room to get to the other side. A note on engineered barrier separation:

We have opted to not install plexiglass barriers between workspaces because we are able to ensure that everyone is appropriately physically distanced in each office. We expect that each employee or consultant will remain working within their own workspace and limit the need to enter another individual's workspace. If you find yourself in a situation in which you will be taking over your colleague's computer to help solve a problem or to communicate a solution, please sanitize your hands before entering their workspace. We will continue to evaluate the need for barriers as new information about COVID-19 emerges.



Use of common spaces

Common spaces will need to be used with caution, and only when absolutely necessary. Mainly, you'll want to avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily, spray things down after use, and keep at a safe distance from others. If you see someone entering or exiting a room, give them space to do so. When moving from one common space to use another, wash your hands in between.

Adhere to the following protocols for the common spaces in our building as best as you can:

Washroom guidance:

- One person at a time. If someone is in the washroom, wait at a distance for it to open.
- Do not cross paths with anyone upon entering or exiting the washroom.

• After washing your hands (use paper towel to turn off the tap), use the 70% alcohol solution to spray down the toilet handle, countertop, sink, and door knob before exiting the washroom.

Kitchen guidance:

- It is recommended that you bring your own containers and cutlery with which to eat. However, if you need to use the kitchen's dishes or cutlery, please thoroughly wash your items, dry them off, and place them in the cupboards instead of letting them sit out to dry in the open.
- After use, spray down surfaces and appliances with the 70% alcohol solution.
- If you are bringing food from home to store in the fridge, please bring it in a metal, glass, or plastic container that you can spray down with sanitizer. Do not leave paper bags or reusable shopping bags in the fridge, only plastic.
- If someone enters the kitchen when you are there, keep at least two metres apart from each other. This can be accomplished with good old communication!
- If you want to have lunch together in the kitchen, you may do so with physical distancing. Notify your coworkers to let them know you'll be in the kitchen together, in order to avoid someone not knowing and feeling uncomfortable entering the space, or to allow your colleagues to stagger food preparation and/or meetings.

Meeting room guidance:

- There should be no more than three people in the meeting room at a time to abide by physical distancing. If you require that more than three people attend a meeting, you can meet virtually, or downstairs in the studio if it is open.
- Notify your coworkers when you are using the meeting room so you can stagger meetings, if needed.
- Wipe down all surfaces after use (including armrests on chairs!).

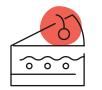
Studio guidance:

- If you are using this space for larger work meetings, limit touching of surfaces and walls. Standing meetings are preferred to decrease time spent sanitizing afterwards.
- Seated meetings are approved if people are appropriately distanced. Please sanitize the chairs with the 70% alcohol solution after use.

Studio rentals:

If the studio is being rented, we will do the following:

- Ensure that all employees and contractors of Be the Change Group are aware and can make alternative work plans as required.
- Ensure that studio renters are following our hand hygiene and disinfection protocols.
- Limit the number of people who can come in for a studio rental so that we can ensure physical distancing remains in place.
- Allow the public into the studio.
- Restrict studio renters from coming upstairs for any reason. If they require our assistance with something, we will provide them with a way to call to us from downstairs.
- At the end of each studio rental, ensure that we use Saber to disinfect our common spaces.



Food sharing

In general, food sharing is not recommended. However, if you are the type that bakes a lot and wants to share, we aren't going to stop you. We do ask that you follow some rules though. If baking or bringing food into the building to share, please:

- Only do so if you are asymptomatic, have not been exhibiting any of the <u>COVID-19 symptoms</u> in the past 14 days, and have no COVID-19 positive contacts.
- Individually wrap items you wish to share, to limit touch contamination.
- No shared utensils will be allowed.
- If there is some food that needs to be served, each person should have their own individual serving utensil to serve themselves, to limit having a utensil exchange hands multiple times.
- Prior to food sharing, everyone must wash their hands.
- Please do not leave food in an open container for sharing, like a box of Timbits or bowl of munchies (We know: #sadface. Usually sharing is caring but right now sharing is spreading!)

All this said, we are of course encouraging coworkers to take lunches or breaks together. Catching up with your team members is an essential part of working together and maintaining the strong bond that we have created. On sunny days, outside hangs should definitely be optimized, not just because it makes it easier to distance and you don't have to clean up after, but because it's just way better overall. Get that fresh, beautiful B.C. air! Just make sure to leave and enter the building one at a time.



Cleaning and disinfecting

Be the Change Group President and Co-Founder Dr. Natalie Chan has based our cleaning and disinfection protocol on health care standards and materials that are as good as we can get. Using these specific products will help keep our building as safe as possible.

We will be using two different solutions, for different purposes.

1. ISO Alcool (70% Alcohol) – A no-rinse, alcohol-based sanitizer

This is good for QUICK CLEANING of surfaces (including those in contact with food) that are NOT VISIBLY SOILED, and good for delicate surfaces. You can spray down the surface and do a quick wipe-down with a paper towel. This solution also evaporates quickly and does not leave a residual film.

2. Saber disinfectant, sanitizer, bactericide

Saber is a hydrogen peroxide disinfectant. For effective sanitization of surfaces, ensure all surfaces are clear of debris. Then spray Saber on the surface, allow for five minutes of contact, and then wipe away.

Workspace disinfection protocol:

- Every morning before you use your workspace, disinfect with 70% alcohol solution.
- At the end of your work day, wipe down your station with a paper towel to clear debris, and then disinfect with Saber.
- If your work station was used by someone other than yourself, you can use Saber (5-minute contact) in the morning as well for a more thorough cleaning.

We need to ensure that we increase the cleaning of high-touch surfaces, therefore, common areas that are frequently used need to be cleaned more than usual. We will have a rotation of individuals responsible for common area disinfection to spread out the task responsibility.

Please don't forget to disinfect your cell phones when you come into the office!

Common area disinfection protocol:

- Disinfect in the morning with 70% alcohol solution (kitchen, washroom, door handles, faucets and taps, light switches, conference room chairs and arm rests).
- Clean your hands prior to the use of any of these areas during the disinfection process.
- Disinfect after any use of areas, using 70% alcohol solution.
- At the end of day, wipe down surfaces with a paper towel to clear debris, then disinfect with Saber (please remember five minutes of contact time).

Photography studio rentals will have a pandemic policy sheet similar to this one that they will need to sign off on. For rentals, building staff will:

- Do a full disinfection with the Saber disinfectant before and after use.
- Leave out the 70% alcohol solution for people to spray things after use, such as the kitchen.

Personal Prevention

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Hand hygiene

Hand washing is super important in helping to prevent sickness, as I am sure we have always known, but we may have gotten lazy about doing it the right way. Do it the right way from now on. (See image on the right.).

These posters from the BCCDC will be up around the building for your reference if you need to check how to do it. Washing for 20-30 seconds is necessary, not just suggested. It is the amount of time it takes to break down and kill bacteria particles like COVID-19. Do it the right way!

You might have noticed that the signs state that you can either handwash with soap and water, or handrub with sanitizer. Hand washing is required if your hands are visibly soiled. BCCDC does not recommend homemade sanitizers "as they may present health risks such as burns, poisoning, lung problems and allergic reactions that can occur if people use non-approved products. Non-approved products may also not be effective for COVID-19 and give people a false sense of security."



The building will have multiple hand sanitizing stations available for use, so you won't have to supply your own unless you want to. Some examples of when to use hand sanitizer rather than hand washing with soap include the following:

- Use sanitizer when you are coming and going between rooms for instance, or after touching things in a common space.
- Wash or sanitize hands before putting on gloves to do cleaning.
- If hands are visibly soiled or have been covered in fluid, they must be washed; hand sanitizer is not suitable in this instance.

If you are using your own personal supply of hand sanitizer, please ensure that it has a minimum 60% alcohol content. If you aren't sure, check with Brandy or Natalie. With all the handwashing you'll be doing, your skin is bound to get dry. Don't forget to regularly moisturize with your favourite non-scented lotion to prevent any skin rashes. You can ask Natalie about her favourite brands because all she does all day, every day is test types of moisturizers.



Face touching

Let's be honest, face touching happens. We just can't help but touch our pretty faces for all sorts of reasons, like maybe you have an itch, maybe you want to put on that super cute cherry lip balm, or maybe you are thinking and you like to rest your thinking hand on your nose.

Our only advice: PLEASE DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE. If you have to, if you must, please sanitize your hands before you touch your face. But seriously, don't touch it.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

First and foremost, if you have any symptoms of concern, you just should not be at work—it's that simple. If you develop symptoms while at work, you'll need to immediately put on a face covering, notify your team lead, and leave the premises. See the <u>Symptoms section</u>.

Being diligent about not touching your face with your hands is key, as is coughing or sneezing into your arm or other material. Beyond that, PPE is helpful when used correctly. The tricky thing is that it's a bit difficult to use correctly.

PPE is a catchall term for material that you wear to protect yourself from infection or injury. When we talk about PPE in relation to a pandemic, we are talking specifically about face coverings and gloves. Masks are mostly used to ensure we are protecting each other from ourselves. Gloves are mostly to protect ourselves from contaminated surfaces.



Masks

To use or not to use! That is the question ... or at least seems to be the hottest question of 2020.



Remember, masks protect other people more than they protect ourselves. There are a few different types of masks floating around, and they all have different levels of protection. The most important thing to remember is that one-use means it is contaminated after one use. You cannot reuse your mask that day even if it says "reusable".

The various types of masks include the following:

- Disposable masks, which must be disposed of each day after use. If you dispose of them in the building, only put them in the designated close-lidded garbage bin.
- Reusable or homemade masks are accepted, however, they MUST be washed every day. You cannot wear the same mask twice in a row without washing in between. If you don't want to purchase multiple masks, you can hand-wash them each day and set them out to dry for use the next morning.
- Other types of face coverings, such as bandanas, are acceptable if they are double-layered cotton. They also must be washed after each use.

You must be extra careful when putting on and taking off PPE. If you don't do it correctly or do it carelessly, you are actually increasing your risk of transmission.

- Putting on masks
 - Wash hands or handrub with sanitizer before putting on your mask.
 - Place the mask over your ears and stretch out the middle to cover both your nose and mouth.
 - Once the mask is on, you cannot touch your face again without washing your hands.

- Taking off masks
 - WASH HANDS or HANDRUB FIRST, as you will be touching your face.
 - Next, you can remove your mask. Please grab it by the ear loop and remove it from your face.
 - Place your mask in a designated bin if you're at work, or into a plastic bag to bring home to wash if it is reusable.



Gloves can help protect your hands when cleaning areas, not just for illness-related reasons but also to protect your skin from abrasive cleaning chemicals. Our building will have disposable gloves on hand, while supplies last. Reusable gloves are not allowed, as they pose too much of a threat due to careless use.

- Putting on gloves
 - Hand-wash or handrub first.
 - Next, put on the gloves (Please don't reach into the glove box without clean hands, as you risk contaminating the whole box.).
- Taking off gloves
 - The key is to try not to touch the outside of the gloves with your bare hands.
 - The outsides of gloves are contaminated. Grasp the palm area of one gloved hand and peel off the first glove. Slide your naked fingers under your other glove at the wrist and peel off. Discard the gloves in the designated close-lidded waste bin.
 - See the following diagram, from <u>https://opentextbc.ca/</u> <u>clinicalskills/chapter/1-6-hand-hygiene/</u> for detailed



Grasp glove on the outside 1/2 inch below the cuff.



Gather the inside-out glove in the gloved hand.

Pull down the glove until it is inside

out, drawing it over the first glove.



Pull down glove, turning it inside out. Hold the inside-out glove in the gloved hand.

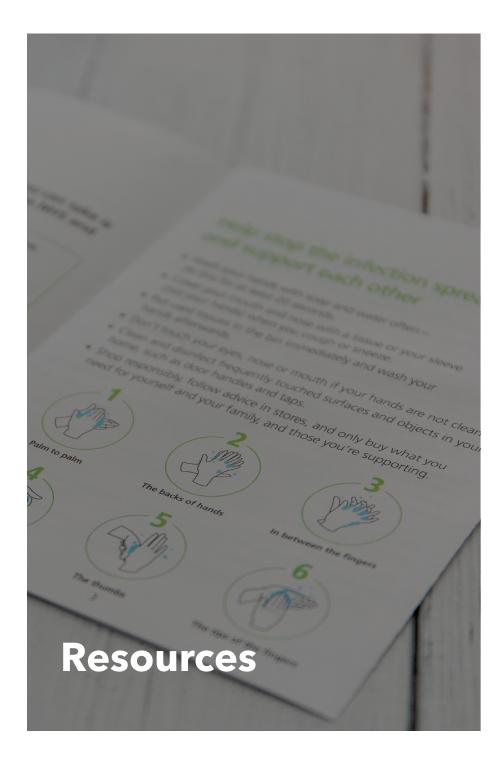


Insert finger of the bare hand under the cuff of the gloved hand. Do not touch the outer surface of the other glove.



Discard gloves in a garbage container.

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION IF THIS IS NOT CLEAR.



BCCDC guidance for caregivers and household members of those with COVID-19:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Self-isolation_ caregivers.pdf

BCCDC hand washing poster:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/ COVID19_Handwashing%20Poster_MD%20offices.pdf

BCCDC how to wear a mask:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/ COVID19_SurgicalMaskPoster.pdf

BCCDC physical distancing poster:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/ COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf

BCCDC do not enter poster:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19_ DoNotEnterPoster.pdf

BCCDC employers and businesses information:

http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/ employers-businesses

Public Health Agency of Canada approved disinfectant list:

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html

WHO getting your workplace ready for COVID-19:

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/advice-forworkplace-clean-19-03-2020.pdf

WHO hands protect against infection:

https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

Globus Group how to remove gloves:

https://www.globus.co.uk/how-to-safely-remove-disposable-gloves



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