

# SFRS COVID-19 RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

The following safety protocols have been developed for SFRS staff, contractors, volunteers and clients in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These protocols follow the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Officer (PHO), WorkSafe BC and BC Centre for Disease Control. These protocols may change and will be updated as new information is made available by the PHO.

As we continue to review how services can be offered safely, implementing the SFRS COVID-19 Response Protocols, along with relevant revised SFRS policies, is mandatory for employees, contractors and volunteers.

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## Sharing information about SFRS protocols

1. Each employee will receive a copy of the SFRS Covid-19 Response Protocols and relevant policies.
2. Each SFRS program area (including shared spaces) will have a copy of the SFRS Covid-19 Response Protocols and relevant policies.
3. Managers will complete training on protocols and policies for each employee, contractor and volunteer working in their area of responsibility.
4. Managers are responsible, but may delegate responsibility to employees, to train clients receiving services.
5. SFRS office and program spaces will have the following WorkSafe BC signage posted:
  - Room capacity (based on social distancing guideline of 2m/6ft)
  - Visitor screening questions
  - Hand hygiene information
  - Cough/sneeze etiquette information
6. Common and public spaces will have the following WorkSafe BC signage posted:
  - Visitor screening questions
  - Hand hygiene information
  - Social distancing information

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## Screening to determine wellness for work or service

Employees, contractors, volunteers, clients and visitors entering SFRS work locations or vehicles must be screened before entering. Screening must be done each time staff, clients and visitors enter a work location or vehicle.

Screening questions to be asked each time are as follows:

**1. Do you have any of the following symptoms?**

- Fever
- Chills
- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath

- sore throat
- new muscle aches or headache

If you are is sick, or if you become ill at work with any symptoms of common cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, you will stay/go home until you have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious disease, AND your symptoms have resolved. You may use SFRS sick time benefit, vacation time, or request a Record of Employment (off work due to illness), for access to other government benefit options.

**2. Have you been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

If you have reason to believe you have been exposed to a person with COVID-19, you must self-isolate and monitor your symptoms for 14 days. Employees who need to self-isolate will have the option to work from home, as planned with their manager, or use sick time or vacation time benefits.

**3. Have you travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days?**

Those who have travelled outside of the country must self-isolate for 14 days on return and monitor daily for symptoms.

**4. For employees working in client/family homes, ask: Is anyone sick or in self-isolation in your household?**

You may refuse service if client/family homes have sick or self-isolating persons in the household.

Employees may refuse service to clients or visitors who are not willing to follow SFRS guidelines regarding screening.

## Hand Hygiene

Maintaining good hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways of reducing the spread of the Covid-19 infection.

- Wash your hands often with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- When soap and water is unavailable, alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) can also be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, use a wipe and then ABHR to effectively clean them.
- ABHR must contain at least 60% alcohol content.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

You must clean your hands each time:

- Before and after preparing, handling, serving, or eating food.
- After personal body functions (e.g., using the toilet, sneezing, coughing).
- Before and after using a mask.
- After disposing of garbage or dirty laundry.
- Whenever hands look dirty

SFRS work locations will be equipped with soap dispensers in washrooms, kitchens, and staff rooms. Where soap and/or water is not available, staff will be provided with hand sanitizer and/or wipes (ABHR).

## Social Distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When the appropriate social distancing requirement of 2 metres (6 feet) is not attainable, staff are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE). For SFRS services PPE consists of:

- Gloves, where there is no access to water and soap for hand hygiene
- Masks (cloth, disposable) or face shields.

SFRS will provide PPE to staff who require equipment to maintain service delivery components of their jobs.

When seeing clients in the community, staff must wear PPE if they are in any setting that does not permit appropriate social distancing (2 metres/ 6 feet), such as coffee shops, stores, malls.

When working in client homes or transporting clients in vehicles, PPE must be used.

## Transporting clients

- As much as is possible to support service delivery, appropriate social distancing rules will apply when transporting clients in SFRS or employee vehicles.
- If the appropriate social distancing requirement of 2 metres (6 feet) is not possible within a vehicle, PPE must be worn by staff and clients. Clients may provide their own PPE or staff may provide it for them.
- As much as is possible, each child will use their own car seat.
- Where it is not possible, an agency car seat may be used, but must be cleaned between each child's use. Cleaning will include removal and washing of the car seat cover.
- Personal and SFRS vehicles must be cleaned after each use (see cleaning protocol below). SFRS will supply cleaning products. If necessary, employees may purchase PPE and be reimbursed on an expense sheet, after approval from the program manager.

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## Clients meetings in SFRS spaces

If the appropriate social distancing requirement of 2 metres (6 feet) is not possible within the office, staff will arrange an alternate room of appropriate size for meetings.

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## Client home visits or home meetings

- All staff visiting clients in their homes must pre-screen clients before entering the home, using the screening protocol.
- Where possible, meetings are to be conducted outside.
- Staff are to keep social distance at all times, whether outside or inside a client home.
- Where possible, staff should refrain from touching anything in the client's home.
- If the appropriate social distancing requirement of 2 metres (6 feet) is not possible within a home PPE (face mask) must be worn by staff.

- If discovered, any undisclosed illness in the client's home must be reported to the program manager. The manager, in consultation with the impacted SFRS employee, will determine a safe course of action for service.

## SFRS workspaces

- Each office and program space will have SFRS COVID-19 protocol signage stating the room capacity
  - Common or shared spaces such as staff rooms and community kitchens will have SFRS COVID-19 protocol signage stating the room capacity
  - When the appropriate social distancing requirement of 2 metres (6 feet) is not possible within a shared office, staff can arrange alternate use of the space with their direct supervisor (e.g. working from home, working in shifts/rotating)
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## Public, Common, and partner program spaces

Public and common spaces in facilities where SFRS services are provided will comply with WorkSafe and PHO guidelines. Working with partner agencies, SFRS will ensure appropriate protocols are in place. When working in partner program spaces, SFRS employees will comply with SFRS COVID-19 protocols.

- Screening
- Hand Hygiene
- Social distancing
- Cleaning

Appropriate signage will be in place in the public and common spaces.

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## Food Preparation and Handling

- All surfaces are to be sanitized before and after use (counter tops, taps, fridge door handles, etc.) SFRS will provide bulk supplies.
  - Staff will wear gloves at all times when handling food
  - Staff will wear masks at all times when preparing food for consumption
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## Cleaning protocols for all SFRS spaces

Cleaning protocols will comply with WorkSafe and Island Health licensing requirements. Staff must clean office spaces, kitchens, vehicles, and transport items (bins, boxes, etc.) after each use. It is important to follow directions on cleaning supply labels.

- **Kitchens and shared eating areas**  
All surfaces are to be sanitized after use (counter tops, taps, fridge door handles, etc.).
- **Meeting spaces**  
If you have booked a room for a socially distanced meeting, please follow the cleaning guidelines posted in the room. Paper towels and cleaning supplies will be provided in all available bookable rooms

- **Offices**  
All surfaces are to be sanitized at the end of the day regardless of whether you are sharing an office or not.
  - **Vehicles**  
All surfaces inside the vehicle must be wiped down with cleaner provided. Only disposable paper towels or sanitized wipes are to be used for wiping down surfaces in vehicles.
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## Working at home

Employees will plan with their manager if working at home is an option, and how their home office will provide a safe, private, and functional workspace. Staff must review WorkSafe BC guidelines to help make informed decisions about working from home.

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