

Connecticut Department of Transportation

SAFETY DIRECTIVE

James F. Ritter Director of Safety

SD-COVID-5-080321 Updated 080321

Precautionary Physical Distancing as a Control Measure

<u>CTDOT COVID Safety Directives</u> – COVID Safety Directives issued by the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety may be revised, as needed, in response to updated or emerging requirements and guidance. Specific requirements or steps in any CTDOT COVID Safety Directive may be adapted to meet the specific needs of a COVID case, with the approval of the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety.

Updated 8/3/2021 - All protocols identified in the CTDOT COVID Safety Directives are required regardless of the employee's vaccination status.

These requirements are not intended to limit the Department's response capabilities to emergencies or mission critical tasks. Unforeseen emergency situations may warrant a deviation from the requirements established here. Any questions should be directed to your Supervisors and/or Manager.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is used in conjunction with other control measures such as the use of face coverings, as a part of an overall strategy to limit or prevent the spread of potentially contagious viruses from one person to another. When a specific separation distance is established, such as 6 feet in the case of COVID, every effort is made to achieve that physical distance. When physical distancing requirements can't be met because of the nature of the work being done or the specific work environment, additional precautionary measures such as wearing a face covering or limiting the number of people in a specific location is required.

Required Physical Distancing

The CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) may require additional precautionary physical distancing control measures to help limit or prevent the spread of contagions as necessary or as recommended/required by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH).

- It is important to note that precautionary physical distancing control measures are established in response to a potential public health emergency identified by the CTDPH.
- The specific separation distance established under these circumstances most commonly is temporary in nature and is not to be interrupted as a part of the State Building Code or as a standard design requirement for a particular work environment but rather in response to the current public health emergency.
- When a precautionary physical distancing control measure is established, it may be applied Department wide, to a geographical region, to a specific facility or to a specific unit/working group within a facility.
- The way precautionary physical distancing control measures are implemented will vary depending upon the unique nature of the work environment.
- The current precautionary physical distancing requirements can be found in the most recently issued version of SD-COVID-Current Precautionary Control Measures.

EAP Lexington Group

In these stressful times it is important that employees are reminded that the Lexington Group, EAP Program, is available and offers a variety of benefits and services to assist employees and their dependents in their time of need and/or their dependents is struggling to adjust to changes associated with COVID-19. Their number is 1-800-676-HELP (4357).

CTDOT Specific Information - https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info
State of Connecticut Information - https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

For more information about the COVID19 virus go to:

CTDOT Specific Information - https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info
State of Connecticut Information - https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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You may contact any of the OH&S staff with questions or concerns at any time. Email a confidential safety concern, observation or near miss by going to: www.ct.gov/dot/safetyconcern