

Safety in Action – Breakrooms or Break Areas

Breakrooms or break areas on a construction site may be challenging to maintain physical distancing. Each site will have a different set up on where workers go for break. The goal is to eliminate unnecessary items that will cause workers to be closer than 6ft and to remove unnecessary items that are touched frequently by many people.

There are several steps you may take to reduce the chance workers may get too close to each other, which is particularly important since facial coverings cannot be worn while eating and drinking.

- Post signs to limit the number of workers in the area to allow for 6' physical distance.
- Rearrange break schedule so there is adequate seating for the limited number of workers
- Provide outdoor space to eat (weather permitting)
- Allow workers to break in their cars if feasible to do so
- In the break room, remove extra chairs and tables to allow for 6' distancing.
- Reduce food preparation equipment and encourage workers to bring ready to eat meals
 - Remove microwaves, toasters, coffee pots, water coolers
- Reduce risk of sharing items such as cups, utensils. Provide water bottles or have workers provide their own.
- Eliminate buffet lunches. Provide individually packaged meals to workers.

Cleaning is essential to fighting transmission of the virus. Contractors can help this process by providing supplies and a workstation for these tasks:

- Provide multiple wash stations and/or hand sanitizer to be located at convenient locations throughout the break area. These may be located on the break tables.
- Post signs to remind workers to sanitize their hands regularly, including before and after eating.
- Provide multiple trashcans located throughout the breakroom to avoid close contact between workers
- Post signs to ask workers to clean and disinfect their eating area before and after eating. This may include spray disinfectant, paper towels, or disposable towelette disinfectant wipes.