

Reducing surface transmission of handling hard copies and papers through use of electronic devices

On construction sites, many meetings and information sessions share information in paper hand outs and also use written signatures as evidence of attendance such as worker safety trainings. During COVID 19 this presents an issue of having workers touch the same objects (pen and paper). To eliminate spread by contact with papers, contractors may use alternative methods.

Safety/project meetings

- Meeting information may be sent to supervisors/managers to read to workers during meeting using digital formats (ie IPADs, cell phones). This may include morning safety briefs, daily activities and schedules, subcontractor meetings.
- Supervisors may list all workers that attend meetings on a form that is turned in or sent digitally to the office rather than have workers sign in individually.
- In addition, workers or supervisors may be given their own electronic device (ie IPAD) to view project information rather than share devices between workers. If there are an inadequate number of devices, the device should be cleaned before and after each use with cleaning protocols that are specifically for electronic devices.
- Project and safety information and other regular communications may be posted in several locations around the jobsite so workers can view them as needed, without concern for contamination.
- Reading information orally to one or more workers should be done while maintaining 6-foot social distancing.

Health screens

Health screens of workers and others entering the job site are done on many construction projects prior to admittance. Early on, procedures often used paper copies, asking workers to answer questions on a daily basis, and sign the form. More contractors are moving to using oral or digital forms to complete health screens. The health screen may be linked to a phone number or directly into an app that is created for the contractor.

- Phone number option: Workers are told to text "COVID" to a given number that has a link to the health screen questions.
- QR code: workers may retrieve the link via a QR code that is posted at the entrance to the jobsite. The worker views the QR code via the camera mode of the phone and this links to the health screen.
- Phone app: Some contractors have built or purchased a phone app that may be downloaded to a personal device and completed each day prior to entering the job site.
- All health screens should have a process to review health screen positive responses that need to be managed to avoid allowing individuals with possible COVID on the jobsite.
- For digital options, the responses may be logged in an electronic worksheet and used as a record but should follow appropriate confidentiality rules if it includes health information.
- Using digital options may reduce time for the health screens and risk of congestion at the entrance.