



BlocPower's Response to COVID-19 Contractor Guidance

Updated: May 28, 2020

Safety is a core BlocPower value. With the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to share with you the response BlocPower is taking to slow the spread of the virus and limit potential exposure for our staff, our contractors partners and the communities we work with as we continue our work expanding access to clean energy systems.

BlocPower follows the applicable recommendations set forth in guidance distributed by the federal, state and local health authorities. As a reminder, BlocPower requires all of its contractor-partners to comply with any applicable federal, state or local regulations when working on BlocPower projects.

BlocPower requests that all of its contractor-partners review the guidance below to limit exposure and spread of the COVID-19 when working on BlocPower projects.

Health and Safety Plan

BlocPower requires each of its contractor-partners to submit a federal, state and local law compliant health and safety plan in order to be eligible to participate in BlocPower projects. Health and Safety plans are to be emailed to your BlocPower point of contact.

General Precautions

BlocPower strongly encourages all of its contractor partners to review and comply with the CDC's [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). Among the most relevant recommendations are:

- **Consider conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks** (e.g., symptom and/or temperature screening) of employees before they enter the facility, in accordance with state and local public health authorities and, if available, your occupational health services.
- **Identify where and how workers might be exposed to COVID-19 at work.** Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace. Conduct a thorough hazard assessment of the workplace to identify potential workplace hazards related to COVID-19. Use appropriate combinations of controls from the



hierarchy of controls to limit the spread of COVID-19, including engineering controls, workplace administrative policies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect workers from the identified hazards.

- **Actively encourage sick employees to stay home:** Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F [38.0° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
- **Separate sick employees:** CDC recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately. Sick employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).
- **Perform routine environmental cleaning:** Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- **Take action if an employee is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection,** including, following the CDC cleaning and disinfection guidelines and determining which employees may have been exposed to the virus and may need to take additional precautions.
- **Educate employees about steps they can take to protect themselves at work and at home.**
- **Offering support to employees who commute to work using public transportation.**

[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (link is external)



Field Work Screening

Before a contractor-partner attends any BlocPower related site visit, BlocPower requires its contractor partners and their employees to complete a virtual health pre-screen questionnaire. Your BlocPower representative will provide a link to the health pre-screen questionnaire. The health pre-screen questions must be completed by each contractor or contractor employee and each question must be completed on the same day that the site visit is scheduled to occur.

If the contractor-partner or any of its employees answers “Yes” to any of the questions in the health pre-screen questionnaire, the contractor-partner and/or employee may not attend any BlocPower related site visit for at least 14 days. In the event the site visit must be delayed or canceled, contractor partners should immediately notify BlocPower.

Completing Field Work

BlocPower requires its contractor partners to review and comply with OSHA requirements that may apply to prevent occupational exposure to COVID-19 before completing the fieldwork. A helpful summary has been published by the US Department of Labor and is linked below. Contractor-Partners must also review the recently published OSHA Construction specific guidance, also linked below. Among the most relevant items are:

- OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards, which require using gloves, eye and face protection, and respiratory protection under certain conditions.
- The General Duty Clause, [Section 5\(a\)\(1\)](#) of the [Occupational Safety and Health \(OSH\) Act of 1970](#), 29 USC 654(a)(1), which requires employers to furnish to each worker “employment and a place of employment, which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.”

[OSHA COVID-19 Resources \(link is external\)](#)
[COVID-19 - Control and Prevention | Construction Work](#)

New York State Specific Guidance



- Contractor Partners are required to comply with [Reopening New York: Construction Guidelines for Employers and Employees](#)
- The Health and Safety Plan submitted above must be compliant with the [NY FORWARD SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATE](#)
- Contractor-Partners are required to have read and affirmed [INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY](#)
- Contractor Partners are required to review the NYSERDA [Contractor and Construction Guidance - NYSERDA](#)

Washington, DC Specific Guidance

- Contractor Partners are required to review the [COVID-19 Guidelines for Construction Sites within the District of Columbia](#)

For more information, please email or call your primary BlocPower point of contact.

Please sign below to confirm you have received and reviewed the guidance above.

Company: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____