COVID-19 Return to Work Guide
Illuminations Article

On 24 April 2020, the National Cabinet agreed to the National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles. Safe Work Australia, under guidance from the Federal Government has developed principles in guiding employees back into the workplace.

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency, that all actions in respect of COVID-19 should be founded in expert health advice and that the following principles operate subject to the measures agreed and implemented by Governments through the National Cabinet process.

The ten Principles can be found here.

Safe Work Australia has also made available a central information hub of work health and safety (WHS) guidance and tools that Australian workplaces can use to help manage health and safety risks posed by COVID-19. The website gives users fast and easy access to guidance that is directly relevant to their specific industry. Users can go to COVID-19 Information for workplaces and filter the content using the new dropdown menu to find information and resources tailored for your workplace.

Work health and safety guidance for COVID-19

In accordance with the Principles, nationally-consistent work health and safety guidance on COVID-19 is being developed by Safe Work Australia.

Here you will find advice on how to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in your workplace and help limit the spread.

To keep workers safe and limit the spread of COVID-19, every employer should do the following at their workplace:

- allow workers to work from home, where possible
- ensure physical distancing by keeping a distance of at least 1.5 metres between people
- encourage all workers to frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser and to practise good hygiene

- be aware of how to spot COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath) and make sure workers do not come to work if they are unwell
- make sure your workplace is regularly cleaned and disinfected
- have signs and posters around the workplace to remind workers and others of the risks of COVID-19 and the measures that are necessary to stop its spread.

For more information, see the COVID-19 resource kit.