

COVID-19 Commercial Service Airport Requirements

The following COVID-19 Commercial Service Airport Requirements are a statewide approach to the COVID pandemic to ensure the health and safety of employees, passengers and crewmembers working and traveling to and from the state's commercial service airports. This approach encompasses setting baseline requirements at each commercial passenger service airport and encourages airlines to adopt certain health screening questionnaires.

The following document discusses two different types of businesses related to commercial passenger service travel.

1. Airlines are defined as an Air Carrier granted the authority to conduct scheduled operations in the form of a FAR 121 Certificate. Airline Operations are governed under 14 CFR Part 121.
2. Airport sponsors are defined as a public agency or private owner with control of a public-use airport. The term "public agency sponsor" means a public agency with control of a public-use airport; the term "private sponsor" means a private owner of a public-use airport; and the term "sponsor" includes both public agency sponsors and private sponsors.

Airport sponsors must adopt a written procedure that is at least as strict as the requirements in this document and that complies with the appropriate safety and health requirements and guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Health.

All airport sponsors are required to develop, a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan which must be adhered to. A site-specific COVID-19 monitor shall be designated at each location to monitor the health of individuals and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities.

Recommended Practices for Airlines

Airlines are strongly encouraged to establish health screening questionnaires for passengers regarding potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms as part of passenger check-in processes and to require passenger acceptance of relevant requirements.

For example, at check-in, kiosk, or other place of boarding pass issuance, airlines are strongly encouraged to require a mandatory acknowledgement by the traveler, that they understand and will abide by the face coverings and physical distancing requirements, and that issuance of a boarding pass is contingent on their willingness to comply. The questionnaire used by the airline is strongly encouraged to prevent issuance of a boarding pass if a passenger answers yes to one of the COVID-19 screening questions.

Requirements for Airport Sponsors

Commercial passenger airports throughout the state are directed as follows:

1. Require face coverings in all public areas of the airport.

2. Post signage for reminders and spacing to honor physical distancing.
3. Erect protective barriers where appropriate to buffer travelers and airport workers.
4. Disinfect high-touch surfaces in public areas with medical-grade cleaning products at a frequency that is appropriate for passenger activity and in consultation with their local health district.
5. Provide hand sanitizer stations throughout public areas of the terminal.
6. Airport vendors and businesses operating at the airport (including, but not limited to, construction, hospitality, and other industry sectors) must follow state and county health agency requirements, including those for employee screening, physical distancing requirements, sanitation and personal hygiene protocols, personal protective equipment, and methods to provide services while limiting close interactions. Encourage card purchases to lessen the handling of cash.
7. Cooperate with state and local health agencies as part of the enforcement of these requirements.

Safety and Health Requirements

All airlines and airports sponsors have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Jay Inslee's ["Safe Start" Proclamation 20-25.4](#), the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#), and the Washington State Department of Health [Workplace and Employer Resources and Recommendations](#). All establishments are required to post signage at the entrance requiring their customers to use cloth face coverings. Employer-owners must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect professional employee-service providers:

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer's COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks, and work shift starts.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required to employees for the activity being performed. **Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance.** Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. A cloth facial covering is described in the Department of Health guidance,

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/ClothFacemasks.pdf>.

- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize.

A site-specific COVID-19 Supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each job site to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. And, it is unlawful for their employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if their work refusal meets certain requirements.

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, access to use unemployment benefits, or access to other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available at <https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/paid-sick-leave-and-coronavirus-covid-19-common-questions>.

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/covid-compliance>.