

### Our Vision is:

To provide awareness, education and training, creating positive work environments with reduced risk.

### Our Mission is:

To improve the health and safety of all members of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Through out the COVID-19 pandemic, anxiety and depression were highest among people going to workplaces where they felt (PPE) and infection control procedures were missing.



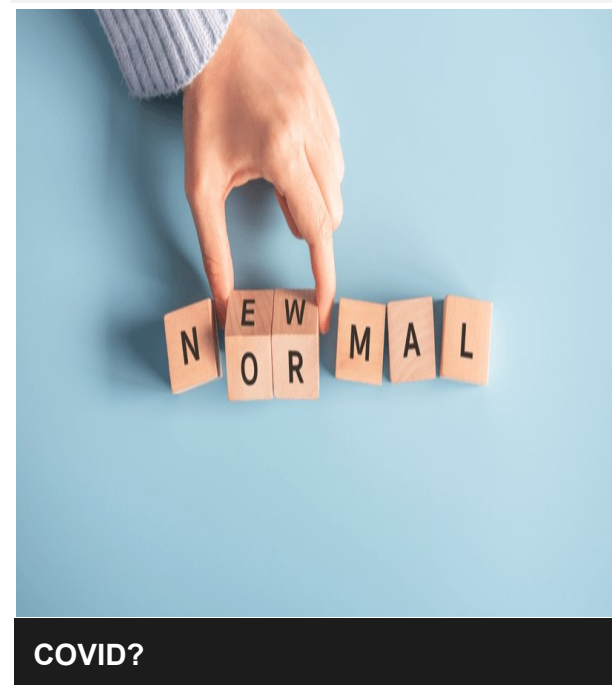
Unionized Construction firms have lower lost time injury rates versus their non-unionized counterparts.

A study completed by the IWH in Ontario's ICI sector, using workers' compensation claims data from 2012 to 2018, found unionized construction companies had a 25-per-cent lower rate of lost-time injuries than non-unionized ones.

<https://www.iwh.on.ca/summaries/5-things-we-think-you-should-know/2021>

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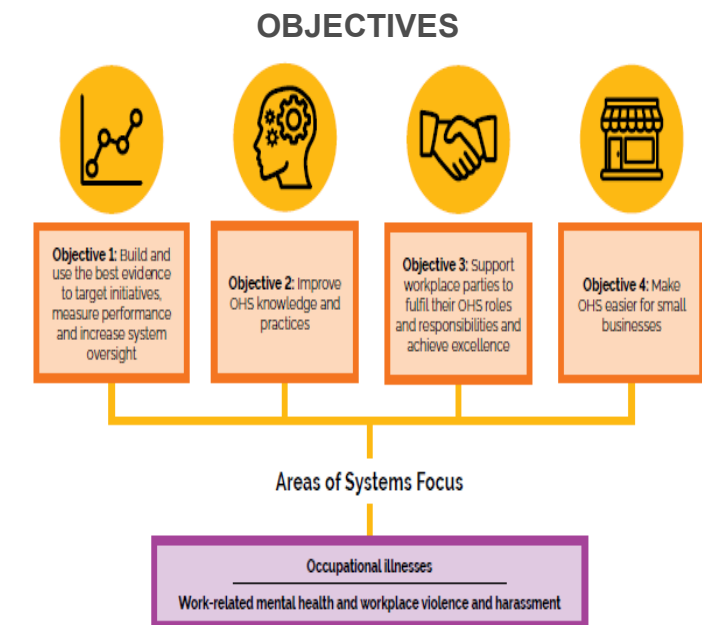
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### NEW 5-YEAR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY STRATEGY

In line with Ontario's commitment to preventing injuries, illnesses and fatalities in workplaces, the province has released its next 5-year strategy, called Prevention Works.

Prevention Works contains four strategic objectives and two areas of system focus, which were developed based on extensive research and province wide consultations.



Excerpt: <https://www.ontario.ca/>

### CHANGES TO SELF ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

After a high-risk exposure to someone with COVID-19, a worker must stay at home except for medical emergencies and may not attend the workplace — to prevent them from infecting others before they know if they are infected.

Changes in the Ministry of Health guidelines have decreased the time required for self-isolation to 10 days (from 14 days). In addition, after a high-risk exposure, a fully vaccinated or previously positive worker who is asymptomatic may be permitted by public health to leave the home including to attend the workplace if wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing when outside of the home.

[Learn more](#)

### NEW REGULATION TO STREAM LINE REPORTING FOR

A new regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) came into effect on July 1, 2021: [Ontario Regulation 420 / 21 – Notices and Reports under Sections 51 to 53.1 of the Act – Fatalities, Critical Injuries, Occupational Illnesses and Other Incidents.](#)

The new regulation incorporates the critical injury definition and streamlines reporting requirements into a single regulation that applies to all workplaces covered under the OHSA. [O. Reg. 426/21: Construction Projects.](#) Under the new regulations, the key point for Construction is Section 3, MVA's only apply if the worker is working on the highway.

“Section 3 does not apply when a worker is killed, critically injured, disabled from performing his or her usual work or requires medical attention as a result of a collision involving a motor vehicle that occurs on a highway, as defined under the *Highway Traffic Act*, or on the private toll highway known as Highway 407, unless,

- (a) the worker affected was working at a project; or
- (b) the worker affected was not travelling in the motor vehicle at the time of the collision.

## ONTARIO KEEPING WORKERS SAFE AS PROVINCE REOPENS

The Ontario government is investing \$10.5 million to provide up to 60,000 small businesses across the province with free health and safety training over the next three years. The new Small Business Health and Safety Training Program will improve health and safety awareness to help prevent illnesses and injuries by training health and safety representatives of small businesses on how to keep workers safe in the retail, construction, health care, accommodation and food services, and other sectors. Businesses will also be reimbursed for the time the representatives are away from work.

[Learn more](#)

### RISKS FOR WORKERS WORKING ALONE

Considerations need to be made for those working alone. A risk assessment would be a valuable tool to help identify areas where controls may be required. Risk examples:

- Exposure to public may be subject to Workplace Violence and Harassment
- Certain physical conditions that could cause slips, trips or falls
- Health challenges (i.e. heart condition)

Need to review how workers can access help if they are injured, how can situations be monitored in a changing environment.

- Communicate hazards and risks
- Develop and implement written procedures for checking on the workers
- Training
- Consider implementing a buddy system for regular touch points
- Operators presence control (Deadman's switch
- Wearable tech alert for a sudden fall or injury

<https://d1ow5xpiphy0w2p.cloudfront.net/common/covid19-working-alone-considerations.pdf?mtime=20210512084918&focal=none>

### ON-SITE RAPID TESTING

On-site rapid testing uses a nasal or combination nasal and throat swab to check for the presence of protein fragments, known as antigens, from the COVID-19 virus. These antigen tests are conducted for screening purposes. Results are available on-site within 15 to 20 minutes. Any positive results must be confirmed through laboratory-based testing.

How do I know if my workplace is eligible to conduct rapid antigen testing?

Testing is available from a number of sources, including the provincial government has made testing available to any essential business that is allowed to be open and requires staff to work on-site under its [Provincial Antigen Screening Program](#).

On May 12, the government launched a new [rapid testing portal](#) for interested businesses to register. Workplaces that qualify will receive test kits at no cost, depending on availability. Participation in the program comes with responsibilities, which are set out in [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Privately Initiated Testing](#).

## GO VAXX BUS TO VISIT CONSTRUCTION SITES



**GO Transit buses turned into mobile vaccination clinics**



The Government of Ontario and Metrolinx have partnered with the construction industry to bring encourage construction workers to receive COVID-19 vaccines on worksites.

Two GO buses have been converted to serve as mobile vaccine clinics as part of the province's last-mile strategy to target those who have yet to receive a first or second dose.

Starting Sept. 8, GO-VAXX buses will travel to construction sites around the Golden Horseshoe Region every Wednesday. The program is designed for larger construction sites to encourage full vaccination and provide easy access.

GO-VAXX buses are administering the Pfizer vaccine and can vaccinate up to 160 people a day, visiting a few sites in a day.

Each bus operates as a fully functioning vaccine clinic with the necessary supplies and trained staff to assist people and ensure vaccines are administered safely. All COVID-19 safety precautions will be followed on board, including the required pre-vaccination screening and post-vaccination monitoring.

[GO-VAXX bus to visit construction sites - Ontario Construction News](#)

### ONTARIO COVID-19 WORKER INCOME PROTECTION BENEFIT EXTENDED

Paid infectious disease emergency leave was set to end September 25, 2021. It will now continue until December 31, 2021.

[Learn more](#)

### PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: IHSA'S SUPERVISORS LOG BOOK

A competent supervisor keeps a record of daily events on the job. Designed with safety in mind, IHSA's Supervisor Log Book contains safety talks, inspection checklists, a job safety analysis (JSA) form, a due diligence checklist, and other helpful resources.

Learn more about the [Supervisor Log Book](#)

### 2021 COR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

IHSA invites you to register for our upcoming COR™ Virtual Conference on November 9, 2021. During this online session, you will obtain valuable information, tools, and experiences that can help you to be successful in achieving your COR™ certification using the COR™ 2020 audit tool.

<https://www.ihsa.ca/News-Events/Latest/2021-COR-Virtual-Conference-November-9-2021.aspx>

### COVID-19 VACCINE CERTIFICATE

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Update from Ontario Government Newsroom

Today the government released [the regulations](#) and [guidance](#) for businesses and organizations to support them in implementing [proof of vaccination requirements](#), which take effect on September 22, 2021. Requiring proof of vaccination will help increase vaccination rates, protect individuals in higher-risk indoor settings, and keep businesses open.

In advance of September 22, all Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt from the [provincial booking portal](#). The Ministry is working on additional supports and services to assist Ontario residents who need help obtaining proof of vaccination, including requesting a copy be sent by mail. Those who need support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt including those who do not have access to a computer or printer can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

Ontario is developing an enhanced vaccine certificate with a unique QR code to make it safer, more secure and convenient to show that you have been vaccinated, when required to do so. The enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app will be available by October 22, 2021. Ontario's proof of vaccination guidance will be updated to reflect the new processes.

The [proof of vaccination policy](#) has resulted in a marked increase in vaccination rates. Between September 1 and September 8, 2021, the seven-day average for first doses administered increased by more than 29 per cent, from over 11,400 doses to over 14,700 doses. During that time, more than 90,000 first doses and 102,000 second doses were administered in Ontario to individuals aged 18 to 59.

To further protect those who face the highest risk from COVID-19 and the Delta variant, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health is following the evidence and recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to [additional groups](#), such as individuals with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency, individuals receiving active treatment for significantly immunosuppressive conditions and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Locations and timing for third doses will vary by public health unit and high-risk population based on local planning and considerations.

### RESOURCES

CCOHS produces a wide variety of publications related to workplace health and safety. Every publication is reviewed by representatives from government, employer and labour for technical accuracy and readability.

To support workplaces during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we have made [helpful products and resources](#) free of charge.

The following are a few samples of some pocket guides available. See below for a full range of products.



[CCOHS: Publications](#)

### UPDATED:

#### COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL FOR BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Version 9—August 27, 2021

This screening tool provides advice, recommendations and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health in accordance with O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 made under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA).

The person responsible for a business or organization that is permitted to be open must ensure that workers, whether or not they have been vaccinated, are actively screened for COVID-19 before they go to work or start their shift each day.

[https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2021-08/EN\\_Worker\\_Screening\\_v9Aug27%20Final.pdf](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2021-08/EN_Worker_Screening_v9Aug27%20Final.pdf)



Sources