

**TELKWA COAL LTD**  
**TENAS (TELKWA COAL SOUTH TENURES) PROJECT (0200034 / CX-2-1)**  
**COVID 19 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROTOCOL**

## **1. Overview**

COVID-19 spreads from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets and aerosols. These can linger in the air and come in contact with the mucous membranes of another person's nose, mouth or eyes or inhaled by another person. The virus may also spread when a person touches another person or a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touches their mouth, nose or eyes with unwashed hands. People who are contagious with the COVID-19 virus may not show symptoms and can be at their most infectious shortly before symptoms are apparent.

Maintaining physical distancing between people, sanitization of surfaces, respiratory etiquette, good hand hygiene and mask wearing are some of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signage promoting these safety measures will be posted on site.

This protocol has been developed for exploration activities on the Tenas project, which has no onsite accommodation facilities and where both local and out of province personnel will daily come to site to work.

On the first day of work and as part of subsequent safety meetings, all workers must complete a training and education session on this protocol. COVID-19 prevention and hand hygiene information will be posted in readily accessible public areas throughout the project.

Updates to official advice or mandates issued by the Provincial Health Officer will be checked regularly and incorporated as needed into this document. The most up to date and accurate information on COVID-19 prevention and control measures can be found at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

The Mine Manager or their delegate is the coordinator for implementation of this protocol.

## **2. Worker Responsibilities**

### **2.1. General:**

Whether at home, in the field or in the office, the employee has responsibilities to their own health and safety as well as to their colleagues.

- If you or anyone in your household is showing COVID-19 like symptoms, you must self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms, until the symptoms have completely resolved, and you have had no fever for 72 hours or show negative COVID-19 test results.
- If you have travelled internationally, you must remain away from the workplace for a minimum of 14 days, regardless if you are showing symptoms or not.
- In the workplace, employees must comply with all employer's instructions around minimizing exposure to COVID-19 and take steps to minimize COVID-19 exposure while away from work.
- Employees must wash their hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds, using soap and water or hand sanitizer (with a minimum 60% alcohol content). This is most important:
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - After coughing, sneezing or blowing one's nose
  - Before and after contact with an ill person

- After touching dirty surfaces such as taps and doorknobs and after going to the bathroom.

All employees have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard. This is defined as “an unwarranted, inappropriate, excessive, or disproportionate” risk, above and beyond the potential exposure a general member of the public would face through regular, day-to-day activity.

Employees are encouraged to bring forward any questions or concerns to their supervisor as soon as possible. Safety meetings also provide opportunity for feedback and improvements to the COVID-19 guidelines provided in this document.

## 2.2. BC Restrictions:

Province wide BC restrictions include the suspension of all events and social gatherings and masks are required in all indoor public settings. While restaurants are open, only a household or work pod is allowed to gather at a table.

At this time, non-essential travel is to be avoided in the province.

Outbreaks in smaller rural communities can quickly overwhelm local health care providers, use extra care to not expose people in the community to potential infection or to expose your self to the virus if it is circulating in the community.

## 3. Masks

Masks should be a minimum of three layers if made of cloth or be of an approved non-medical disposable style. They should form a tight seal for proper filtration and must cover both the nose and mouth.

## 4. Symptom Screening, Quarantining and Testing:

Workers are required to complete the Telkwa Coal COVID-19 screening form (Appendix A) each day prior to leaving for work.

- If any symptoms are present, the worker must isolate and report symptoms to their immediate supervisor and the mine manager for further direction
- In British Columbia as of December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020, four key symptoms (not related to pre-existing conditions) prompt the need for immediate testing. These are fever or chills, cough, loss of smell or taste and difficulty breathing.
- Development of the other COVID symptoms may or may not require a test, this will be determined by contacting 811.
- If a worker is required to self-isolate or quarantine, they will do so in the private room that they have already been assigned or at home. Meals must be delivered to workers quarters.
- workers who are required to self-isolate or quarantine must be checked a minimum of twice daily to ascertain if medical assistance is required.

A list of all employees who are currently working on a site will be kept and updated daily. This includes a log of any persons who might visit the site intermittently, such as inspectors, contractors or other such persons.

## 5. Creating Work Pods or Crews

There are situations on a day-to-day basis where physical distancing between workers is not practical for extended periods of time (e.g. working on the drill).

'Work pods' can be thought of like a family unit where close contact only occurs within a select small group of people. Designating workers to the same small working group or work pod will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading to workers and others in the operation.

Work pods for the Tenas program will consist of people that work with the same company. Masks and physical distancing are not required among people in these work pods although they may still be used, particularly in enclosed areas to limit the chance of exposure in case of the development of a positive test.

## 6. Physical Distancing and Protocols between Work Pods

Work pods must practice physical distancing and implement other public health recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when interacting with other work pods. Physical distancing of a minimum of 2 meters (m) should be maintained, at all times:

- **Group activities:** including site meetings shall be held outside. In situations where maintaining physical distance of 2m is difficult or crews need to be in enclosed spaces, workers will wear masks and time will be minimized in that situation
- **Transportation:** While being transported from accommodations to site or between work locations, crew will use the vehicles of their dedicated work pods.
  - Use of vehicles outside of your work pod should be for exceptional circumstances only.
  - If it is necessary to be in another work pod's vehicle due to extenuating circumstances, masks must be worn and physical distancing maintained by using the driver seat and the back seat on the passenger side. Ventilation should be maximized using windows if possible and touch surfaces used by the non-pod member must be sanitized after use.
- **Communicating at Drill:** Difficulty distancing may occur at the drill during communications between SRK and drill crew while the drill is operating. Rather than yelling while in close contact, other options for communicating should be utilized including hand signals, use of a whiteboard to give written instruction and/or turning off the drill to reduce noise.
  - Masks must be used if close contact is needed.
- **Core Shack:** Use of the core shack should be limited to SRK and drill crew delivering core samples. Anyone other than SRK entering the facility must wear a mask, utilize hand sanitizer and minimize their time spent in the building. Core shack should be aired before and after core delivery.
- **Enclosed spaces:** If different work pods need to be in enclosed spaces together, the time spent should be minimized and masks must be worn by all parties.
- During off-duty hours, workers must continue to practice physical distancing

## 7. Vehicle Sanitization

Vehicle supplies shall include:

- Alcohol-based wipes for surfaces
- Hand sanitizer
- Water jug & soap for hand washing on site
- Paper / disposable towels

Fueling vehicles shall be done as sparingly as possible. Fill the fuel tank to the maximum possible as this will reduce the need for additional stops. Where possible, pay at the pump to reduce contact with other surfaces and people. Use a sanitizer on your hands after you get back in the vehicle but before you use the steering wheel.

Immediately before leaving town or after arriving onsite after being in town, drivers must clean and disinfect hands. Frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle must also be sanitized, by using an alcohol-based cleaner, disinfecting wipes, spray and paper towel or soap and water.

High touch or key contact points include:

- door handles (inside and out);
- keys;
- window buttons;
- steering wheel and controls;
- wiper and turn signal handle;
- shifter;
- dash controls + buttons;
- ventilation grilles and knobs;
- rear-view mirror;
- armrests;
- grab handles, seat adjusters;
- seat belt buckles; and
- radio and communication devices

If there is a suspected COVID-19 case within a work pod, more extensive sanitation of the vehicle is required.

If testing is required, and the worker is safely able to do so, they should drive themselves to the hospital for their appointment while wearing a mask, there should be no passengers in the vehicle with them.

## **8. Reporting**

COVID-19 is a reportable disease and the local Medical Health Officer must be notified by the mine manager if there is an outbreak or suspicion of an outbreak.

Northern Health - Communicable Disease Hub Phone (during business hours): 1-855-565-2990 On-call medical health officer after hours phone: 1-250-565-2000, press 7 and ask for the medical health officer on call

## Appendix A: Telkwa Coal COVID-19 Daily Screening Form

**Completed checklists are to be provided to the Mine manager at weekly safety meetings**



### DAILY COVID-19 CHECKLIST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Work Pod/Company \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Covid Checklist</b> Complete this daily and report to Mine Manager if any answers are positive. Keep checklist available for spot checks by manager while at site.	Date						
Do you have any of the following symptoms? (not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition).	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
● <b>Fever</b>							
● <b>Cough</b>							
● <b>Difficulty breathing or Shortness of breath (at rest or laying</b>							
● <b>Unexplained loss of sense of smell or taste</b>							
● Chest pain or pressure							
● Loss of speech or movement							
● Losing conciousness / feeling confused							
● Feeling unwell / Fatigued							
● Headache or chills							
● Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite)							
● Unexplained muscle or joint aches							
● Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye							
● Rash on Skin or discoloration of fingers or toes							
● Runny nose or stuffy nose or nasal congestion							
● Sore throat or painful swallowing							
<b>Temperature measurement F or C</b>							
Have you had close contact with anyone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 or is presumptive and has been told to self-isolate?							

## **Appendix B: Communicable Disease Control Plan (CDCP)**

**Project Location** - Tenas Project – located south of Telkwa BC

**Project Timeline** – Estimated as January 18<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Anticipated number of employees by work pod**

- Main phase (9)
  - Drill Crew (3),
  - SRK (1),
  - Kerr (2),
  - Farrell Exploration Services (1),
  - Telkwa Coal (1),
  - Jade First Aid (1).
- Bridge installation and removal (7)
  - Pidherney (3),
  - ERM (1),
  - Farrell Exploration Services (1),
  - PNC (2)

**Demographics and health care status of workers** – variable

### **Where workers are coming from**

Mix of local Smithers residents and workers from western Canada locations.

### **Turnover patterns and work shifts**

most crews will stay in for the duration of the program, one daily shift

**Overview of Camp Location** – Workers will be based in individual local hotel rooms or in their own homes.

**Location of nearest acute health care facilities** – Smithers

**Whether any medical device reprocessing is completed on-site** – no

**COVID-19 resources translated into various languages are available from:**

HealthLinkBC: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

BCCDC website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/translated-content>