



Question and Answers about COVID-19

Kaltz Excavating Co. Inc./M.U.E. Inc.

- Q. With COVID-19 being so new, where does the company get the information to protect its employees and customers?
- A. The company uses multiple sources with the two main sources being the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as local experts.
- Q. Why does the company need a Pandemic Preparedness Plan (PPP)?
- A. In the event of a pandemic, companies will play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety as well as limiting the negative impact to the economy and society. Planning for pandemic is critical.
- Q. Why does the company need a COVID-19 Safety Plan?
- A. To prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 among our employees, their families and our customers.
- Q. What is the difference between the Pandemic Preparedness Plan and the COVID-19 Safety Plan?
- A. The Pandemic Preparedness Plan is more global and intended to provide the foundation to deal with any pandemic whereas the COVID-19 Safety Plan is specific to COVID-19.
- Q. Why a COVID-19 Safety Plan now?
- A. As with any new journey there are learnings along the way that cause a need to make updates and/or formalize operating plans.
- Q. Are there any changes with the company's new COVID-19 Safety Plan?
- A. Yes, the major change is to complete a daily health screening that includes the requirement to check your body temperature prior to starting work.
- Q. When will the company start the daily health screening?
- A. Tuesday, May 12, 2020 prior to starting work.
- Q. What kind of questions are in the daily health screening?
- A. It asks employee's name, what company they belong to (Kaltz Excavating Co. Inc. or M.U.E.), who they report to and (5) five yes/no questions. All questions are specific to COVID-19 and do not infringe upon employee's legal rights according to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Q. How do employees access the daily health screening questionnaire?
- A. The company will be using Survey Monkey software. The survey link is available on our website (<https://kaltzexcavating.com/>). Paper copies are made available if needed.



Q. Why does some of the company's protocol go above the WHO and CDC recommendations?

A. First and foremost, the company is going to do the "right thing" and at times our customers request us to do more than the minimum. This is nothing new – many of the standards we use to perform our work exceed the federal codes. The reality is, by contract, the utility company can change the safety and operational requirements/standards that we are obligated to follow. When this happens, we review our safety and operating plans and make adjustments as needed.

Q. Why do we require our employees to wear a face mask even if they are six (6) feet away from others?

A. Originally the CDC stated that social distancing without face mask could be the first line of defense for working in the public but as confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, the CDC is recommending that everyone wear a cloth mask when they work out in public. Experts say the homemade masks won't protect someone from getting sick, but they can help prevent the spread of the disease by those with the virus. Experts also recommend that everyone continue social distancing and other preventive measures in addition to wearing face coverings. DTE has partnered with medical professionals and in their opinion surgical mask verses homemade face coverings provide better protection, therefore DTE requires employees and contractors to wear surgical mask while working on their property and system.

Q. What should one do when one of the requirements in the COVID-19 safety plan creates an unsafe situation – like when I wear a face mask my safety glasses fog up?

A. First and foremost, stop what you are doing until the problem has been corrected. Problems that are new to us sometimes seem unsolvable, but the odds that someone else had to deal with problem already are very good:

- Soap and water: Doctors were on the front lines of this innovation long before the coronavirus pandemic as they wear face masks every day. They figured it out and by code require this technique in a 2011 study published in the Annals of The Royal College of Surgeons of England. "Immediately before wearing a face mask, wash the spectacles with soapy water and shake off the excess," the study states. "Then let the spectacles air dry or gently dry off the lenses with a soft tissue before putting them back on. Now the spectacle lenses should not mist up when the face mask is worn." The soapy water creates a "thin surfactant film" that temporarily prevents the surface tension that causes glasses to fog up from the breath directed upward by face masks, according to the study. It's not a permanent solution, however, and must be repeated a few times a day.
- Shaving cream: Woodworkers who must wear safety goggles with dust masks have found that shaving cream is also effective in preventing condensation on glasses.



- Anti-fog spray: Some chemical sprays stop moisture from collecting on your glasses. Competitive swimmers sometimes use similar sprays to prevent foggy goggles in the middle of a race. Like soap and water, these sprays are designed to keep condensation from sticking to lenses. Environmental Design and Construction Magazine recently put together a handy list of the best anti-fog sprays for those stuck wearing glasses at this moment in human history.
- A flexible 'nose': Some masks come with a metal nose clip that allows the wearer to limit the amount of moisture that comes in or out of the mask.
- Fold down part of the mask: Though this sounds like the easiest way to mitigate the problem, it's not as simple as it sounds. Folding down the top quarter of a face mask provides extra space for your breath to escape before it hits your glasses. This method is championed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and has gained traction through YouTube tutorials like this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j-DsuiK-9g>.
- Folded tissues: That same YouTube video also teaches us another way to keep glasses from fogging: folding a tissue into a rectangle and connecting it to the mask so it stays on the bridge of your nose. The tissue blocks and absorbs some of the moisture escaping the mask to keep lenses clear. Keeping the tissue in place can be tricky, and it's vital to get it right the first time so you're not constantly touching your face to adjust it. Thin tape — medical tape particularly — could work.
- Anti-fog eye protections (glasses and goggles): The safety department is currently working with employees to demo different styles of glasses.

Solutions that do not work for one person may be helpful to others. We encourage people not to discredit any of the solutions. Since everyone has different facial structures and breathing patterns there is not one clear solution. As stated earlier, no one is expected to work with their vision obstructed and we ask that you try one or a combination of the solutions above.