

# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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KRGinsure

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## Break Periods During COVID-19 in the Workplace

Health and safety should always be a central focus for any workplace, but now it's more important than ever. COVID-19 continues to be a prominent concern, and employers should make sure that employees are protected as much as possible. One way to prevent illness from spreading is social distancing during breaks and mealtimes. Here are some ways to control exposure to COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses at break times:

- **Create safe spaces.** Make sure shared spaces for eating, taking breaks and changing are well-ventilated and set up to maintain social distance. Position dining tables, chairs and other furniture in break areas to help workers stay at least 2 metres apart from each other. Remove excess furniture to reduce the risk of overcrowding.
- **Implement strong policies and procedures.** Communicate clear policies for using lunchrooms, changing rooms and break rooms. Set limits on the number of people allowed to use the break areas at one time and how long they can stay there. Ensure standard cleaning and disinfection happens on a frequent schedule, and increase the regularity of cleaning high-touch surfaces.
- **Focus on training and supervision.** Make sure everyone knows what to do and how to do it. Observe what workers are doing, including during their meal and break times. Remind workers of important policies, such as wearing a mask indoors at all times, except when eating or drinking, and staying 2 metres apart from others at all times.

For more information about creating a safety-focused workplace, contact KRGinsure today.



## RECENT FINES AND PENALTIES

### Workplace Fatality Results in \$75,000 Fine for Trenton-based Company

A Trenton-based company, Manoaka Development Inc., was fined \$75,000 after pleading guilty to committing the offence of failing to provide information and/or instruction and/or supervision to a worker regarding the safe operation of a forklift, including the use of restraining equipment such as a seat belt. The court also imposed a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

The incident took place on Sept. 29, 2020, when the worker employed by Manoaka Development Inc. was performing duties in the outside storage of the company's main building in Trenton. The worker was driving a forklift around a sharp corner at a high rate of speed, causing the forklift to tip on its side, resulting in a fatal injury. An investigation by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development determined the worker was not wearing a seat belt when the incident occurred.