COVID-19 presents new challenges for health and safety in the workplace, but one thing has then minimizing the risk means implementing the following strategies.

- **Personal protective equipment**
- **Handling sick or suspected cases of infection**
- **Industrial and workplace hygiene**
- **Social distancing**: wherever possible, provide increased space between workers (two meters or six feet)
- **Ensure good rates of air exchange (ventilation)** in the workplace.
- **Housekeeping measures**: a regime of frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, including office devices, and doors, stair banisters, and furniture should be implemented. Cleaning and disinfection should be carried out daily, and any areas of high contact should be disinfected more frequently. Equipment should be cleaned before and after use, and any spills should be disinfected immediately.
- **Hand hygiene**: workplaces should have a supply of handwashing and hand sanitizing stations at strategic locations and throughout the workplace. Posters explaining how to do “thorough” hand-washing can be helpful. A minimum of 20 seconds with plenty of soap or hand sanitizing gel is required.
- **Training and education**: employers are advised to ensure proper training, fit and use of masks and respirators where required.
- **Regular monitoring of all measures taken**
- **Mental and emotional health**: people will be fearful in these uncertain times; and if employees are anxious or depressed, they should be offered support or counselling.

Employers must have a plan to handle the situation of someone developing symptoms while at work. Consider mental and emotional health: people will be fearful in these uncertain times; and if employees are anxious or depressed, they should be offered support or counselling.

If possible, employers should ensure access to testing for COVID-19 at no cost to workers. Workers who develop a runny nose or a cough while at work should be given a surgical mask or respirator, and instructed to call in sick and work from home. The person should be sent home (or to medical care in serious cases) immediately. While the individual with the suspected infection can reduce the chance of the virus being passed to others, the employer should ensure proper training, fit and use of masks and respirators where required.

Statistically, the risk of developing the COVID-19 infection increases with age. People over 40 seem to be more vulnerable than those under 40. People with chronic metabolic and cardiovascular diseases are more vulnerable. The risk of serious complications seems to increase with age. The most indicative symptoms of COVID-19 infection are fever and a new, continuous, dry cough. In 88% of cases, fever is a symptom, while in 68% of cases, cough is a symptom. Yet at the same time it is an infectious disease like many others; and the prevention of infections by it follow principles that have been known for a long time.

IndustriALL Global Union views occupational health and safety as a matter of workers' rights. Employers are responsible to carefully follow and implement any controls put in place. Workers have the responsibility to carefully follow controls put in place. The workers' union will take action where necessary. Wherever feasible, workers will be advised to work on reduced hours and be paid for regular hours worked.

IndustriALL Global Union (IndustriALL) is a federation of trade unions in 178 countries with 50 million members. IndustriALL works regularly with Local and National Unions, and with governments to develop policies, programmes and procedures that are in the best interest of all workers, which together with the employers' associations promote and develop the development of strong trade union organizations throughout the world.

IndustriALL aims to protect and promote the rights and interests of all workers, including women, young people, migrants, people with disabilities and people who are not conventionally employed, such as those in the informal sector. IndustriALL also advocates for the promotion and protection of workers' rights at international level.

In a few weeks, everything has changed—and nothing has changed. Whatever jurisdiction you work in, the law still applies. While the wording of laws and regulations may have been enacted to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, make sure that your workplace is in compliance with the laws and regulations that apply to you. There are specific measures you can take to make work safer. IndustriALL has this to say about COVID-19: multipliers—where possible, social distancing will be controlled.