



Conducting an IH Survey in a COVID-19 Environment

Donna L. Geuser, MS, CIH
Director of Industrial Hygiene and Laboratory Services

Connecticut River Valley AIHA Annual All Day Conference
October 7, 2020

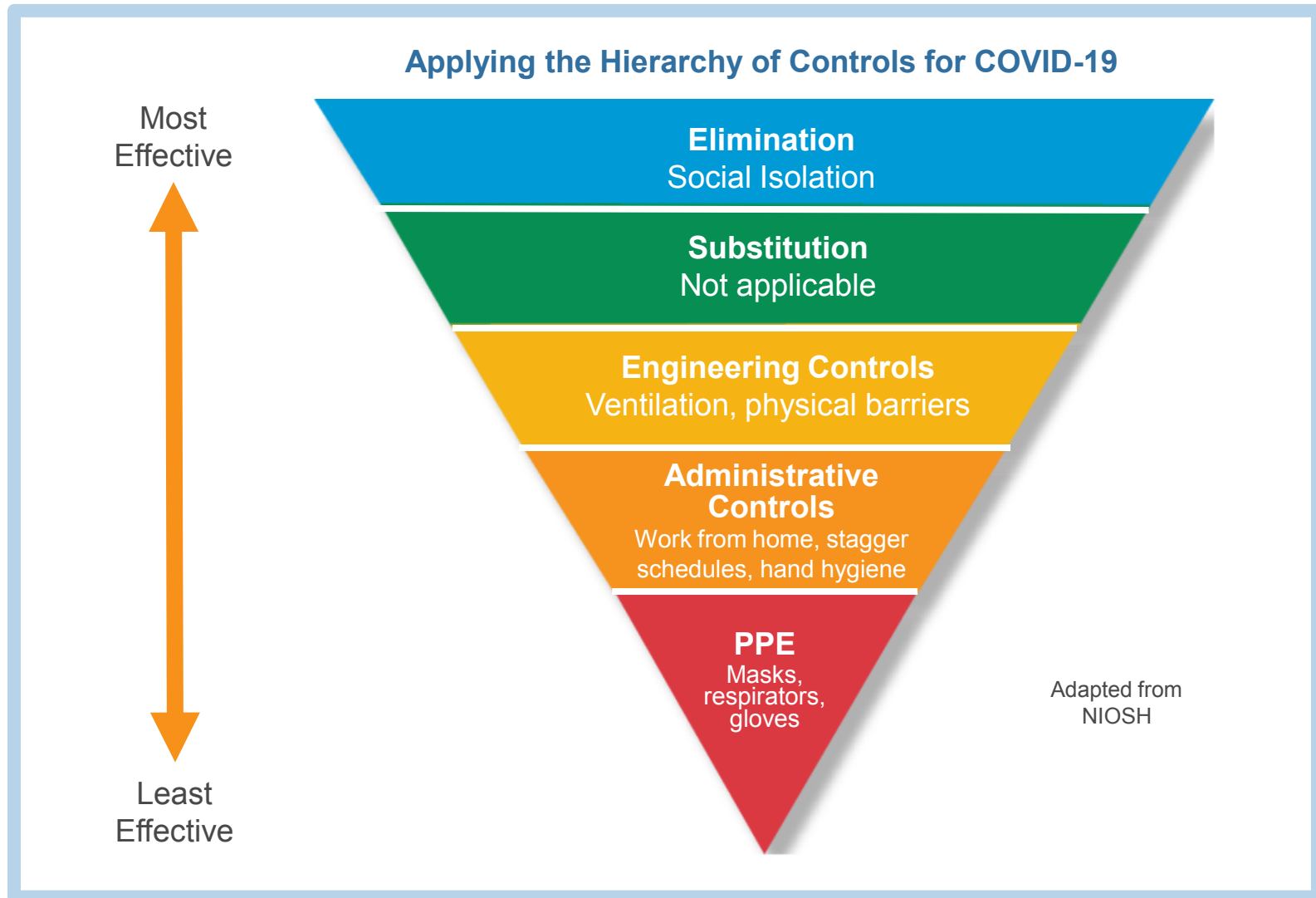


IH Surveys in a COVID-19 Environment

- Conducting Industrial Hygiene surveys with personal monitoring in this time of pandemic are much more challenging.
 - One option is to facilitate sample collection by customer
 - Written instructions, video conferencing
- At the Hartford we have developed guidelines for personal monitoring to protect the worker and Industrial Hygienist.
 - Key Elements – Distance, Protection, Disinfection
- Maintaining social distance will require extensive pre-planning, open communication with site contacts/management, PPE/face mask use and disinfection procedures to be effective.



Hierarchy of Controls now for COVID-19



Pre-Survey Preparation



- Pre-plan details of the IH exposure assessment through discussions with management to identify operations with highest priority for monitoring.
- Confirm the need for monitoring: routine vs complaint vs new hazard.
 - Can exposures be estimated from a review of process controls, chemicals used, previous sampling data?
- Use virtual technology to review floor plans, SDS, workplace layout, engineering controls to plan the sampling strategy.
- Verify what PPE (safety glasses, safety shoes) or other controls (face mask) are required of visitors.
- Confirm social distance and/or isolation practices are in place.

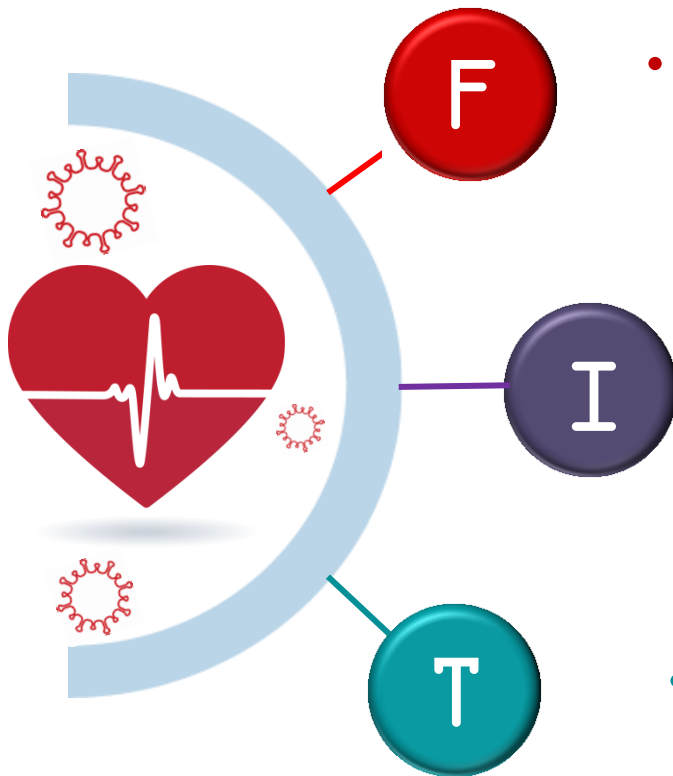
Basic Precautions- Summary for IH Consultants



- Follow client's COVID-19 visitor requirements.
 - Work with site contact to ensure requirements can be met with dedicated space for maintaining 6' social distance.
- Implement IH COVID-19 Control Guidelines into your Survey Plan:
 - Follow the “ 6/15 rule” :
 - Maintain minimum 6' social distance; limit time within 6' zone to 15 minutes.
 - Wear surgical mask per requirements, use gloves for cleaning;
 - Wash hands and/or sanitize after touching high touch surfaces;
 - Keep **FIT**.



Keep **FIT** to Beat Covid

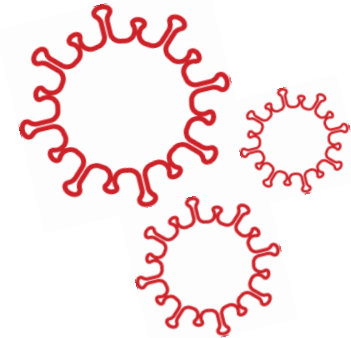


- **Flexible**: how we adapt our practices and controls into client's workplaces;
- **Innovative**: how we maintain our personal safety practices under changing conditions;
- **Thoughtful**: considering potential problems and alternatives in advance.

Keep FIT: Flexible, Innovative, Thoughtful

For example:

- If employees are allowed to remove facemasks at their workstations, request that they don their facemask when donning or doffing equipment.
- If there is a potential for the 6 foot social distance to be breached, ensure you are wearing an appropriate face mask and wash/disinfect afterwards.
- Wash your hands often. Use sanitizer after contacting high-touch surfaces or breaching the 6 foot social distance control until you can wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth prior to washing/sanitizing.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing without your face mask (use your elbow); avoid others who are coughing or sneezing.



IH Survey Quick Card-Guidelines

- Laminated Card sent with supplies to field.
- Instructions and information posted on the Risk Engineering internal website.



INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEYS:

CIH Pre-Survey Planning with Client:

- Determine if the client has a Covid disease transmission prevention plan for visitors and employees; if no plan, cancel visit.
- Identify pre-survey steps required by client for visitors (examples- face mask, health questionnaire, and temperature check).
- Confirm social distance/isolation practices in place; review restrictions to workplace areas such as meeting rooms.
- Pre-plan scope of visit for maximum efficiency; conduct pre-survey virtual review of documents, work areas, interview of workers/management, etc.
- Request separate, cleaned conference room, office or area with table or other suitable work surfaces for limited number of workers to don/doff equipment at one time (less than 5).

General Practices for IH

- Accommodate any non-invasive site specific requirements such as temperature screening, hand sanitation upon entry, etc.
- Wash your hands before and after handling equipment, contact with workers, etc. Use sanitizer if water and soap are unavailable but wash hands ASAP when possible.
- Wear face mask provided. Dispose of mask after use and wear a new mask daily.
- Avoid close contact with workers; maintain a distance of 6 feet when possible. Instruct worker to self-connect equipment and media with instruction from 6 foot distance.
- Limit time within 6 feet to less than 15 minutes for the survey; quick equipment checks only.
- Avoid large gatherings, meetings or groups in enclosed spaces in the facility.
- Wash hands often during the visit, use hand sanitizer in between and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, (use your elbow) and avoid others who are coughing or sneezing; wear mask when contact with workers is possible and as required.
- Disinfect contacted surfaces and equipment before and after completing the survey.



IH EQUIPMENT CLEANING/ DISINFECTION-TO BE DONE PRIOR TO AND AFTER EACH SURVEY

Air Sampling:

- Wipe down pumps, hoses, outside of cyclones, tube holders, filter cassettes (carefully to avoid erasing ID numbers) after pre-calibration.
- Wipe down all equipment and accessories as above prior to placing on worker; or allow worker to disinfect if they prefer (bring wipes to donning location).
- Repeat wipe-down steps after removing equipment from worker before post calibration.
- Wipe down any hand tools used, screw-drivers, pliers, pocket knife, tube cutter, filter key, etc. before repacking in case.
- Place samples in plastic self-locking bag, wipe outside of sealed bag then place into mailing envelope/package.

Noise Sampling:

- Wipe down outside of dosimeters and clips being careful not to soak windscreen.
- Leave windscreen off microphone after use, spray with disinfectant and let sit several hours overnight prior to re-use.
 - Option - Use one kit of dosimeters (5) one day, disinfect, spray inside of case, let sit 24 hours, use second kit for next day-alternating use.
- Wipe off SLM after every use.
- Wipe down calibrator and charging acts.

Direct Reading Instruments:

- CO monitor, Fluke, TSI QTrak, Velocicalc use sanitizing wipe on personal contact surfaces, handle, buttons, face before and after use. Avoid getting sanitizer on any electrical contacts or on the sensors.

If equipment gets dirty during sampling, clean it first then apply disinfecting agent (wipe or spray).

Pre-Survey Preparation

- Review the customer's COVID-19 transmission prevention plan requirements.
- Identify pre-survey steps required for visitors; secure a copy of any questionnaire in advance and verify requirements can be met.
- Confirm social distance and/or isolation practices are in place.
- Verify space will be available for employees to don and doff equipment that allows for 6 foot social distance between workers and you.



Survey Process – Equipment Don/DoFF



- Minimize number of employees in the equipment donning/doffing room to less than 5 or the number that can be accommodated at 6 foot intervals.
- Ensure employees wear face masks while in the donning/doffing room.
- Pre-calibrate the equipment, disinfect and place it on a table or work bench where an employee can easily reach it and put it on.
- Instruct employees verbally how to don the IH equipment. If the 6 foot social distance must be breached, limit that time you spend within the 6 foot zone to less than 15 minutes (6/15 rule).

Survey Process – Equipment Don/Doff



- Ensure you have workers' names and equipment/sample numbers prior to their exit from the room.
- Check pump/dosimeter operation throughout the day while maintaining social distance. Most equipment has a blinking green light. Limit time in the “zone” if you need to check it.
- Back in the room, ask the worker to remove the equipment and place it on the table. Turn it off, record the time.
- Disinfect equipment and secure sample media before post-calibration; take care not to dissolve sample numbers on the media. Wear gloves.

Equipment Pre and Post Survey Cleaning- Air Sampling



- Wipe down pumps, hoses, outside of cyclones, tube holders, filter holders after pre-calibration.
- Repeat wipe-down steps after worker removes equipment when sampling is complete. Avoid touching the media.



- Wipe down any hand tools used, screwdrivers, pliers, pocket knife, tube cutter, filter key, etc. before repacking in case or bag.



- Place samples in plastic self-locking bag; wipe outside of sealed bag prior to placing into mailing envelope/package.

Equipment Pre Survey Cleaning

Pump and tubing cleaning



Dosimeter cleaning



Equipment Post Survey Cleaning

Pump and tubing cleaning



Dosimeter cleaning



Daily Health Screening



Return to Workplace Pass

You may need to show this pass to access your workplace facility. This pass is only valid for the specified date and location.

Donna Geuser

Commercial Lines

WED
AUGUST 12TH

ONE HARTFORD PLAZA, HARTFORD, CT
HARTFORD, CT

This pass will expire on Aug 12, 2020 11:59 PM (America/New_York)

CIHs and consultants use a phone app or go online to update their location (customer) and confirm their health each day.

Video Training Equipment Set Up and Calibration for Customers



<https://www.thehartford.com/loss-control/industrial-hygiene-laboratory>

QUESTIONS

