

CanSIA Guidance for Solar Installers and O&M Service Providers: Best practices for staying safe on site during COVID-19

- [Health Canada guidance on COVID-19 prevention and risks](#) remains the most important resource for keeping yourself, your employees and your customers safe at all times.
- Differences in provincial designations of “essential” businesses or services have led to uncertainty for many businesses. The following table presents the most up-to-date provincial guidance on essential services of relevance to solar PV installation and maintenance:

British Columbia	Essential services: Construction work, construction firms, skilled trades, and professionals; All of the required support, operations and staff critical in supporting [...] Alternative energy production
Alberta	Essential services: Workers who maintain, ensure, or restore, or are involved in the development [...] or operation of the generation [...] of electric power; solar, wind and alternative energy facilities and staff
Saskatchewan	Essential services: Services performed by tradespeople, residential and commercial installation services
Manitoba	Essential services: A business engaged in construction work or services in the industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential sectors [including renovation]
Ontario	Essential services: Electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and storage
Quebec	Essential services: Construction and renovation of residential dwellings
Nova Scotia	<i>Any workplace or business that is not considered essential or has not yet been ordered to close may stay open, provided that all public health guidance is adhered to, and that social distancing between employees can be maintained</i>
New Brunswick	
Newfoundland	
PEI	Essential services: Construction services and projects (industrial, commercial, institutional and residential; only those that have been issued a building permit)

If you decide to continue with solar PV installation and maintenance activities, CanSIA recommends that you take these additional precautions:

- If any of your employees are experiencing any symptoms of illness (coughing, fever, headaches or shortness of breath), even if the symptoms are mild, they should stay home. Refer to [Health](#)

[Canada guidance on COVID-19 prevention and risks](#)

- Mental health is a particularly important consideration in the current climate. The [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) provides free resources to help you keep your employees safe
- Consider implementing more flexible schedules (e.g. 4-day work weeks) to enable your employees to spend more time sharing childcare responsibilities and helping out at home
- Employees should stay in separate accommodations, and travel to and from the work site in separate vehicles. Company vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned before and after each workday, especially for door handles (both inside and out), steering wheels, armrests, storage consoles, glovebox, toolboxes, dashboard and other hard surfaces.
- Warehouses should be thoroughly cleaned each day, especially frequently accessed areas including door handles, light switches, desks, bathrooms, stock areas, etc.
- In addition to standard PPE, provide your employees with disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, face masks, and disinfecting cleansers for work areas
- At the work site, be sure to let your crews know to carry and show their company identification and any essential company information
- Practice social distancing at all times with your crew and your customers. Even on a small residential rooftop, it should be completely feasible to maintain a safe distance of two meters between employees.
- Make clear to your customer in advance that there should be no need for your employees to interact with them at their home or business. Be mindful that your customers may have older or otherwise at-risk individuals living with them during your installation visit. Remind your customers that they should keep all pets and children or other at-home individuals in other areas of the home where work is not being actively conducted so that the installation can go efficiently.