

6951 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC
 Mailing Address: PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal, Vancouver BC, V6B 5L5
 Telephone 604 276-3100 Toll Free 1-888-621-7233 Fax 604 276-3247

The *Workers Compensation Act* requires that the employer must post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at or near the workplace inspected for at least seven days, or until compliance has been achieved, whichever is the longer period. A copy of this report must also be given to the joint committee or worker health and safety representative, as applicable.

A revised version of the *Workers Compensation Act* took effect on April 6, 2020. The B.C. government's revisions aim to make the Act easier to read and understand, and to reorganize the numbering to make laws easier to find. The revisions make no changes to B.C.'s laws concerning workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, and employers' assessment premiums. Please be aware there may be a transitional period where correspondence from WorkSafeBC may include references to either the previous Act or the revised Act. For more information, visit www.worksafebc.com/WCA2019 or call the Prevention Information Line at 604.276.3100, or toll free within BC at 1.888.621.7233 (SAFE).

Inspection Report #202017748035A		
Employer Name	Jobsite Inspected	Scope of Inspection
TRIUMF	TRIUMF 4004 WESBROOK MALL Vancouver BC	Employer Response to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Date of Initiating Inspection	Date of This Inspection	Delivery Date of This Report	Delivery Method
May 08, 2020	May 08, 2020	May 09, 2020	Email

THERE ARE ZERO (0) ORDERS OR OTHER ITEMS OUTSTANDING

**ACTION MAY STILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
PLEASE READ FULL REPORT**

INSPECTION NOTES

On Friday May 8, 2020, prevention officer Jonathan Truefitt conducted a telephone call with this employer pertaining to matters of compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (the Regulation) and the Workers Compensation Act (the Act). The scope of the telephone call was to discuss this employer's response to the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in B.C. in regards to worker health and safety at their workplace.

A) BACKGROUND

This employer operates a particle accelerator facility in the lower mainland.

B) COVID-19 EMPLOYER RESPONSE

The employer reported that they provide information including updates on COVID-19 to workers through an online information page on their internal website, by email, and through regular virtual town hall information meetings conducted by senior leadership for workers. Information on COVID-19 also includes support for the mental health of workers during the pandemic.

Workers can report concerns to the employer through their supervisor, to the joint health and safety committee, and through their internal website.

The employer has performed a risk assessment and implemented a number of controls at their workplace including the following:

- Development of a COVID-19 response plan;
- Physical distancing measures;
- Installation of barriers between person to person interactions in select areas;
- Increasing cleaning and sanitation at the workplace including high touch surfaces;
- Hand sanitizer and washing facilities are available for workers;
- PPE is available at the workplace for various tasks;

The employer has established procedures to limit the number of people in the workplace including restricting visitors to the facility. Except for essential staff the employer has enabled workers to work from home.

The employer has developed procedures regarding workers who may be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. This includes requiring workers who are exhibiting symptoms or are not feeling well to stay home and contact HealthlinkBC at 811 for advice and follow-up. Workers who have returned from travel outside of Canada are required to follow the provincial and federal requirements to self-isolate for 14 days.

C) COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze or when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth. Common symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, and sneezing and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.

The purpose of this inspection is to review this employer's response to the current COVID-19 pandemic in relation to worker health and safety at this workplace.

Measures for COVID-19 are in flux and as such guidance from public health officials may change on a daily if not hourly basis. Employers will need to readily adopt proactive risk management strategies to minimize the potential for contracting COVID-19 in

the workplace.

Following the recommendations of the BC Provincial Health Officer, employers should consider the following when establishing policies and procedures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, and to ensure these are communicated and understood by their workers:

1. Plan work to allow for physical distancing (workers spaced at least 2 metres apart)

- If practicable, arrange the workplace to maintain appropriate distance between workers. Where there is not sufficient distance, physical barriers may be used, such as doors, cubicle walls or plexiglass screens/enclosures.
- Actively promote physical distancing.
- Where possible avoid non-essential face to face interactions. Use phones, video conferencing, or other technologies to reduce personal contact.

2. Provide sufficient soap and water or hand sanitizers and post the locations to encourage workers to wash their hands frequently.

- Actively promote handwashing and personal hygiene like coughing into your elbow and sneezing into a tissue and washing hands.
- OHSR 4.85 Washroom facilities outlines regulatory requirements.

3. WorkSafeBC is not requiring workers to wear masks when they cannot maintain physical distancing, but it is an option for employers to consider as part of their preventative measures for their workplace within the hierarchy of controls. If employers provide masks to workers, ensure that workers are informed of the following:

- the limitations of wearing cloth facial coverings and that it may not be safe for all workers, such as those with other respiratory issues. Non-medical masks do not protect the wearer from the virus since they are not meant to form a tight seal to the face, but can reduce the spread of his or her own respiratory droplets.
- that the masks need to be kept clean and dry (i.e., masks become less effective if wet/damp);
- the safe use of wearing any facial mask, such as cleaning and laundering, safe donning and doffing practices, and washing hands before and after putting it on;
- the importance of continuing with the good hygiene along with wearing a mask (e.g., handwashing, sneeze/cough etiquette, and not touching eyes, nose and mouth), and public health measures (e.g., physical distancing, staying at home as much as possible).

4. Enhance cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace, particularly high contact items such as handrails, doorknobs, shared tools or equipment and washroom facilities. It is not known how long the virus causing COVID-19 lives on surfaces, however there is some evidence that it can live on certain objects for a few hours to days.

- Provide necessary cleaning products and items to maintain a clean and safe workplace.
- Create cleaning protocols and procedures and increase frequency for cleaning activities.
- Ensure contaminated cleaning items are disposed of responsibly.

5. Workers who are displaying symptoms must go home and self-isolate. Note, returning travellers from anywhere outside of Canada (including the US) must follow current quarantine and public health law requirements upon returning to Canada.

- Communicate COVID-19 signs and symptoms to workers.
- Workers who test positive for COVID-19 are to self-isolate and follow current public health authority instructions.

It is to be noted that:

- Workers are to use personal protective equipment as required by the OHSR.
- Workers in B.C. have the right to refuse unsafe work if they believe it presents an undue hazard. WorkSafeBC Guideline - G3.12 "Refusal of unsafe work" provides information about work refusals, including a flowchart illustrating the right to refuse process. Employers must immediately investigate reports of unsafe work and ensure that any necessary corrective action is taken without delay
- Mental health is just as important as physical health and to take measures to support mental well-being. Workers in the workplace may also be affected by the anxiety and uncertainty created by the COVID-19 situation. See Available Resources.

Available COVID-19 Resources:

- WorkSafeBC: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates>
- BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- HealthLink BC: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/>
- Government of BC Managing COVID-19 Stress, Anxiety & Depression:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/managing-covid-stress>

D) CONTACT

If there are any questions regarding the items noted in this inspection report, please contact:

Jonathan Truefitt, B.Sc., CIH, ROH - Occupational Hygiene Officer - WorkSafeBC

E-mail: jonathan.truefitt@worksafebc.com

Mail: P.O. Box 5350 Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5L5

Phone: 604.244.6486 Fax: 604.232.1558

For more information on occupational health and safety, visit: www.worksafebc.com

REFERENCES

In addition to any orders, or other items, and the information provided in the Inspection Notes section in this Inspection Report, the officer may discuss other health and safety issues with the employer arising out of the inspection. The information below sets out the health and safety requirements discussed with the employer, and unless otherwise noted, violations of these requirements were not observed.

Reference	Details Discussed
WCA21(1)(a) Every employer must ensure the health and safety of all workers working for that employer, and any other workers present at a workplace at which that employer's work is being carried out.	Reference for Employer
OHS4.85(1) Except as provided by subsection (2), the employer must ensure that a sufficient number of plumbed washroom facilities are readily available for workers.	Reference for Employer
OHS3.12(1) A person must not carry out or cause to be carried out any work process or operate or cause to be operated any tool, appliance or equipment if that person has reasonable cause to believe that to do so would create an undue hazard to the health and safety of any person.	Reference for Employer
OHS3.12(2) A worker who refuses to carry out a work process or operate a tool, appliance or equipment pursuant to Subsection 3.12(1) must immediately report the circumstances of the unsafe condition to his or her supervisor or employer.	Reference for Employer
OHS3.12(3) A supervisor or employer receiving a report made under Subsection 3.12(2) must immediately investigate the matter.	Reference for Employer

Reference	Details Discussed
<p>OHS5.2</p> <p>If a worker is or may be exposed to a chemical agent, or biological agent designated as a hazardous substance in section 5.1.1, which could cause an adverse health effect, the employer must ensure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the identity of the chemical agent or biological agent, its possible effects on worker health and safety and any precautions required to protect the health and safety of the worker are clearly indicated by labels, MSDSs, or other similar means,(b) the information required by paragraph (a) is clearly communicated to the worker,(c) written procedures are prepared and implemented to eliminate or minimize a risk of exposure to a chemical agent or biological agent by any route that could cause an adverse health effect, and to address emergency and cleanup procedures in the event of a spill or release of a chemical agent or biological agent, and(d) the supervisor and the worker are trained in and follow the measures required in this Part and Part 6 of this Regulation for the safe handling, use, storage and disposal of the chemical agent or biological agent, including emergency and spill cleanup procedures.	Reference for Employer

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Employer #	Mailing Address	Classification Unit #	Operating Location
338669	ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES 4004 WESBROOK MALL VANCOUVER BC V6T 2A3	765010	001

Lab Samples Taken	Direct Readings	Results Presented	Sampling Inspection(s)	Workers onsite during Inspection	Notice of Project Number
N	N	N			

Inspection Report Delivered To	Employer Representative Present During Inspection	Worker Representative Present During Inspection	Labour Organization & Local
Terry Sanghera	Terry Sanghera	Danka Krsmanovic	

WorkSafeBC Officer Conducting Inspection
Jonathan Truefitt

*Inspection Time	*Travel Time
1.50 hrs	0.00 hrs

*The time recorded above reflects the inspection time and travel time associated with this inspection report and includes time spent on pre and post-inspection activities. Additional time may be added for subsequent activity.

Request a Review

Any employer, worker, owner, supplier, union, or a member of a deceased worker's family directly affected may, within 45 calendar days of the delivery date of this report, in writing, request the Review Division of WorkSafeBC to conduct a review of an order, or the non-issuance of an order, by contacting the Review Division. Employers requiring assistance may contact the Employers' Advisers Office at 1-800-925-2233.

To submit a request online, visit <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/review-appeal/submit-request>

WorkSafeBC values your feedback. To obtain that feedback, an external market research provider may be contacting you to complete a survey.