



Protection of Screeners

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to protecting workers from fatal and life-changing events.

Eastern Alliance is here to help. To learn more about Eastern's N3L3 program and access other safety resources, sign in and visit the Safety Tools on www.easternalliance.com, or contact your Risk Management Consultant for assistance

1.855.533.3444

Many organizations have adopted the practice of utilizing "screeners" to minimize the spread of the coronavirus in the workplace. These employees are tasked with verifying employees and/or customers are free of the symptoms associated with the coronavirus and any known exposures. This has proven beneficial for many workplaces but often has one aspect overlooked- the safety of the employee conducting the screening. If your organization determines that screening will be conducted prior to entering the workplace, protecting the employee(s) completing the screening must be considered. Below you will find information both from the CDC and other best practices to assist.

The CDC shares that the most protective methods incorporate social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others) or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize close contact exposure. Look for opportunities to increase the distance between the screener and the person being screened. Consider the following practices:

Education on Hazards:

Prior to beginning duties as a screener, the employee(s) assigned should be provided with information on the hazards and precautions to be taken during their activities. Employers should have documentation that the employees have a confirmed understanding of the hazards present and how to protect themselves.

Visual Inspection & Screening Questions:

Before conducting temperature checks, the screener should, from a safe distance visually inspect the individual to look for signs of feeling unwell such as flushed cheeks or fatigue. Ask the employee the screening questions regarding their symptoms and any potential exposure. If they answer yes, do not proceed with screening. Instead follow company procedure regarding dismissal or alternative processes. If they answer no, continue with temperature screening.

Temperature Screening- Social Distance or Barriers:

- Consider contactless temperature screening technologies including booths, kiosks, or screens employees can pass by while the screener monitors the results at a safe, social distance.
- Screeners should always wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol prior to and after temperature screening.
- Use barriers or partitions such as a glass/plastic window or partition to conduct the screening. The barrier should protect the screener's face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that could be expelled from the employee being screened. Use the following steps:
 - Put on disposable gloves.
 - Check the employee's temperature, reaching around the partition or through the window. Make sure the screener's face stays behind the barrier at all times during the screening.



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- If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, make sure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each employee and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check.
- If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and there was no physical contact with an individual, screeners do not need to change gloves before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, clean and disinfect them according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.
- Remove and discard PPE (gloves), and wash or sanitize hands.
- If the company opts for employee self-monitoring and reporting temperatures before or upon arriving at work, it is very important that you implement controls to confirm the adequacy of this process and reporting.

If social distance or barrier controls cannot be implemented other controls must be in place to protect the employee.

- Consider using insured, contracted service providers who have the knowledge, expertise, and supplies necessary for infection control.
- PPE should be used when the screener is within 6 feet of an employee during screening. However, reliance on PPE alone is a less effective control and more difficult to implement given PPE shortages and training requirements.
- Utilize the CDC guidance below regarding the process for reliance on Personal Protective Equipment:
 - Upon arrival, the screener should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, put on a face mask, eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), and a single pair of disposable gloves. A gown could be considered if extensive contact with an employee is anticipated.
 - Take the employee's temperature.
 - **If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, make sure that you use a clean pair of gloves for each employee and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check.**
 - If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and you did not have physical contact with an individual, you do not need to change gloves before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, you should clean and disinfect them according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.
 - After each screening or after several screenings, where you did not have physical contact with an individual, remove and discard PPE and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.