

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Risk Assessment and Planning for Re-Occupancy

In most parts of Canada, we are levelling the curve of infections and coming through the worst of this phase of COVID-19. Currently, there are no specific processes to safely re-occupy buildings or facilities that manage the risk of spreading the virus while addressing occupant anxiety.

The Risk Assessment model is an industry-recognized, evidence-based methodology to manage and control risk. It has already been used by the federal government when we first began to restrict our workspace and extensively in developing policies, design standards and health regulations. Risk assessment has been identified by Ontario as a necessary step in opening more workplaces in the economy. Prior to the introduction of a vaccine, the Risk Assessment model is an important strategic tool as we look to re-occupy our workspaces.

Risk Assessment Model

While some risks associated with re-occupancy will be consistent across buildings and businesses, each will have unique characteristics that will require consideration. The re-occupancy of buildings will not be a one size fits all situation. As examples, commercial office towers, restaurants, retailers, and shopping malls will all need to implement different controls to control the spread of infection.

It's relatively easy to develop a laundry list of items that we should undertake to combat the spread of COVID-19. The hard part is developing a list of things that can directly reduce your risk, and which can be practically implemented. Using the Risk Assessment model, we can prioritize building activities so that we focus scarce resources on solutions that generate the greatest return. Pinchin can then further assist building management through the development of a COVID-19 re-occupancy management



Identify All Risk Factors



Balance Cost & Benefit



Document Decision Making Process



Adopt Defensible Framework



Prioritize Management Measures



Alleviate Occupant Concerns

program or review and enhancement of an existing plan. Risk Assessment looks at the health impacts of COVID-19 and assesses risk areas and potential exposure pathways to mitigate. It provides evidence-based practical solutions that demonstrates and documents proper diligence as we ready our buildings for re-occupancy.

We are closely tracking updates on the status of COVID-19 through the WHO, Health Canada, CDC, and other reputable agencies. We will continue to update our clients to provide the latest information and guidance as the situation progresses .