COVID-19 Screening and Prevention Procedures for Businesses in Manatee County

Employers provide a significant opportunity to help prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 virus and in the absence of prevention efforts, promote the spread of Covid-19 virus. To prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, health facilities, first responders, and public health offices have adopted screening procedures using resources provided by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The immediate adoption of screening and social distancing procedures by employers and businesses throughout Manatee County is at this time, strongly encouraged.

The adoption of the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County screening procedures will reduce the risk of transmission to personnel and the public when implemented in all workplace settings. Additionally, the adoption of social distancing procedures of employee workspaces and customer services, such as work desks and check-out registers at banks and stores, are to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet in all locations where possible.

Personnel and/or the public, who present with symptoms OR risk factors of exposure, provide opportunities to increase the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This risk of exposure or spread is increased for employers who provide a high volume of employee or public interaction; this risk is also increased for employees who are considered “essential workforce” regardless of a “stay-at-home” order. If individuals affirm any item on the screening tool or refrain from social distancing guidance, the spread of Covid-19 is increased.

To this effect, in Manatee County, Florida, employers are encouraged to adopt the Covid-19 Screening and Social Distancing Procedures outlined in this policy guidance document.

Jacob A. Saur, RPL ENP
Public Safety Director
Manatee County Government

Jennifer Bencie, MD, MSA
Health Officer
Florida Department of Health in Manatee County
Screening and Social Distancing Procedures

1. Prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious workers and visitors
   a. Implement screening procedures at all workplace entrances using the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County screening procedures
   b. Do not permit entry to the facility by the employee or public who endorse any item of the screening tool, instead provide alternative remote support which may include an alternative work location for the employee(s)

2. Employers should prevent the congregation or co-working of any individuals of 10 or more within any workspace and instead adopt social distancing procedures of workspace(s) and customer-service interactions of at least 6 feet in distance
   a. Office spaces, desks, cubicles, and customer-service registers and wait-lines may require physical accommodations to encourage all feasible social distancing procedures for all manners of business, such as shared work spaces, meeting spaces, cash register/check-out lines, and wait-lines of customers that optimize social distancing of 6 feet and limit the number of congregate groups to less than 10
   b. Essential service agencies are highly encouraged to suspend congregate work settings and adopt social distancing measures that limit interactions of any persons at a single time with staggered work schedules, remote work opportunities, or other measures that limit distances to no less than 6 feet
   c. These steps are consistent with the “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people from President Donald J. Trump and the CDC and reinforced by Executive Order No. 20-69 by Governor DeSantis

3. Employees aged 65 years or older, or employees who have chronic health conditions, are urged to stay home


5. Enhance familiarization of all employees regarding Covid-19 risk factors, as identified by the CDC and the Covid-19 screening questions provided by the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County:
   a. Have you returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
   b. Have you been in contact with anyone who has returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
   c. Have you had contact with someone who has OR is under investigation for COVID-19?
   d. Have you been in any gathering of 250 people or more (including airports) in the last 14 days?
   e. Have you traveled domestically by air in the last 14 days?
   f. Have you experienced signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as: Fever? Cough? Shortness of Breath?
   g. Does employee/visitor report or test (if a non-invasive or infrared thermometer is available) a normal temperature (up to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)?
Employers who implement these prevention strategies will optimize efforts that prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus and safeguard the health of their employees and the public. Therefore, the immediate adoption by all employers throughout Manatee County is strongly encouraged as next step strategy to maintain business regardless of a “stay-at-home” order.

Covid-19 Guidance on Screening Visitors and Employees

All clients and visitors entering any employer setting facility will be screened using the following screening questions and procedures. It is understood that a temperature recording may not be possible at all locations, therefore screening questions shall be prioritized over temperature readings which are conducted using non-invasive means such as an infrared thermometer.

SCREENING QUESTIONS:

1. Have you returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in contact with anyone who has returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
3. Have you had contact with someone who has OR is under investigation for COVID-19?
4. Have you been in any gathering of 250 people or more (including airports) in the last 14 days?
5. Have you traveled domestically by air in the last 14 days?
6. Have you experienced signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as: Cough, Shortness of Breath, or Fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the past 48 hours?

TEMPERATURE RECORDING (Using a non-invasive or infrared thermometer only):
Employees/visitor with abnormal temperature will NOT be allowed in the building.

- If the employee/visitor answers “No” to ALL screening questions and has a normal temperature (up to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit):
  - Screening officer will provide the employee/visitor with a DATED indicator, such as a color dot sticker, to enter the building. EVERYONE ENTERING THE BUILDING WILL NEED TO WEAR THIS INDICATOR.
- If the employee/visitor answers “Yes” to ANY of the screening questions or has an abnormal temperature (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above):
  - Employee/visitor will be not be granted access to the building.
  - Customers with appointment will be provided alternate resources to complete business such a telephonic resource.
  - Supervisors will be available to support screening personnel.

- All screening questions will be conducted at the primary entrance(s) of the business
- Any employees/visitors attempting to enter the facility without a current-day dated indicator, such as a color dot sticker, will be directed to the primary entrance to answer the screening questions.

Any employee/visitor who may suspect they have Covid-19, is to call the Department of Health in Manatee County’s Manatee Health Line at 941-242-6649 or the Florida DOH Covid-19 Hotline at 866-779-9121 or visit www.flhealth.gov/covid-19.