

# Car Wash Industry COVID-19 Requirements

Car wash businesses must adopt a written procedure that is at least as strict as the requirements in this document and that complies with the appropriate safety and health requirements and guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Health.

Prior to recommencing on-site services, all car wash owners are required to develop at each establishment, a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan which must be adhered to. A site-specific COVID-19 monitor shall be designated at each location to monitor the health of individuals and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet this requirement may result in sanctions up to, and including, license suspension.

## **Safety and Health Requirements**

All car wash owners have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).

## **Car wash industry specific requirements for all phases**

### **Social Distancing:**

1. Gatherings of any size must be prevented by taking breaks, performing activities and lunch in shifts. Any time two or more persons must meet, ensure minimum 6-feet of separation.
2. Identify and control “choke points” and “high-risk areas” at locations where workers and members of the public typically congregate so that social distancing is always maintained. Consider relocating from small areas into larger rooms to accommodate more area for social distancing.
3. Minimize interactions during activities; ensure minimum 6-foot separation by physical barriers, and/or marking floors with tape. Limit the number of participants based on facility size and activities to allow for 6-foot separation.
4. Arrange furniture to encourage social distancing.
5. Require customers to make reservations for in-person services.
6. Station employees near vacuum areas to clean nozzles after every use.
7. Closed every other vacuum stall for customers in situations where customers would otherwise be unable to practice social distancing.
8. Limited interior vehicle cleaning to only one employee at a time.
9. Customers should line up in their cars at facilities with automated car washing.

### **Sanitation and Cleanliness:**

10. Frequently clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared tools, elevator control buttons, and

doorknobs and restrooms.

11. Regularly clean payment terminals, vacuum hoses, bay guns, wash selector equipment, vending, and cleaning machines.
12. Make disinfectants available to workers and customers throughout the location and ensure cleaning supplies are frequently replenished.
13. Tissues and trash cans must be made available throughout the worksite.
14. If possible, use automated payment solutions to prevent need to touch payment terminals. Otherwise, clean POS terminals regularly.

#### **Sick Employee Plan:**

15. Screen all workers at the beginning of their day by asking them if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell.
16. Ask employee to take their temperature at home prior to arriving at work or take their temperature when they arrive. Thermometers used shall be 'no touch' or 'no contact' to the greatest extent possible. If a 'no touch' or 'no contact' thermometer is not available, the thermometer must be properly sanitized between each use. Any worker with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher is considered to have a fever and must be sent home.
17. Create policies which encourage workers to stay home or leave the location when feeling sick or when they have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case. If they develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness, they must seek medical attention and inform their employer.
18. Have employees inform their supervisors if they have a sick family member at home with COVID-19. If an employee has a family member sick with COVID-19, that employee must follow the isolation/quarantine requirements as established by the State Department of Health.
19. Instruct workers to report to their supervisor if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell). If symptoms develop during a shift, the worker should be immediately sent home. If symptoms develop while the worker is not working, the worker should not return to work until they have been evaluated by a healthcare provider.
20. If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The employer should instruct fellow employees about how to proceed based on the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure.

#### **Training:**

21. All on-site employees must be trained on the worksite's policies, these requirements and all relevant sanitization and social distancing protocols. They must also be trained about COVID-19 and how to prevent its transmission. This can be accomplished through weekly safety meetings, where attendance is logged by the system, supervisor, or COVID site supervisor.

#### **Visitor Log:**

22. [Deleted] *Please refer to the [memo](#) on customer logs.*

**No car washes may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations are made as suggestions and may be adopted, as appropriate.**

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to [adag235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:adag235@lni.wa.gov).
- General questions about how to comply with the agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/report-safe-start-violation>.