Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Australian Upstream Oil & Gas Industry Protocols - ONSHORE
15 October 2020

This document sets out protocols for participants in the onshore oil and gas industry to manage COVID-19 transmission risk. The protocols are in addition to strict compliance with official health directives and may be supplemented by further company-level controls as appropriate. As the scale of COVID-19 declines participants may elect to relax elements of the protocol as part of an appropriate risk response strategy.

Protocol	Principal Requirements	Guidance
Pre-Mobilisation to remote or operational sites		

1. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Questionnaire.	• All personnel are required to complete a self-assessment prior to travelling to and attending site.	• Questionnaire is reviewed and updated as needed.
		• Questionnaire to address issues including:
		  o Close personal contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case
		  o Recent travel overseas
		  o Travel from or through hotspots
		  o Declaration that traveller does not have symptoms of COVID-19.

	• Personnel who report or present flu-like symptoms are not permitted to travel and must get tested for COVID-19 or be medically cleared.	• If test negative, traveller not to come to site until 72 hours post symptoms or be medically cleared.
Inter and Intra-State Travel		
2. Air travel.	• Controls implemented to ensure appropriate COVID-19 risk management on air movements.	• Where possible, social distancing maintained for air travel. • All personnel to have access to masks if travelling commercially. • Personnel encouraged to use personal vehicles for travel to and from air terminal and home.

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3.	Road travel.	▪ Risk-based Controls in place for Light Vehicle and bus transportation.
		▪ Vehicle driver controls enforced.
		▪ Controls are implemented when transiting from interstate or across regional boundaries.
			• Vehicle interior cleaned and sanitised regularly.
			• Hand sanitiser available in vehicles.
			• Appropriate vehicle occupancy limits implemented, where practical to do so, or other risk-based measures put in place.
			• Other risk-based supporting controls may include:
			   o Health declarations
			   o Mask wearing
			   o Open windows.
			• The determination of risk controls will include consideration of COVID community transmission levels.

Site Provisions			
4.	Site management made aware of COVID-19 health and safety requirements.	• All site teams are made aware of and appropriately updated on government COVID-19 requirements and advice. • Selected staff to receive appropriate training on how to manage suspected COVID-19 infection.	• All sites to have dedicated staff charged with managing controls and sanitation protocols; and providing or arranging medical care. • Government advice monitored daily.
5.	COVID Testing undertaken on work sites.	• Follow applicable government health department guidance in relevant jurisdiction.	
6.	Workforce COVID-19 health reporting in place.	• Facility workforce required to report any changes in health or well-being at any time while on worksite to the nominated company contact.	• Any cold & flu symptoms to be reported immediately and worker to self-quarantine and get tested for COVID-19 before returning to work.
7.	Workforce hygiene, social distancing and staggered messing practices are	• Social distancing maintained at worksite • Frequent workplace updates provided on infection controls and any changes to infection control practices	• Information provided on appropriate hygiene and etiquette throughout the work area. • Segregation maintained for shift changeover.

implemented and enforced.	• Members of the workforce encouraged to practise good hand hygiene and good sneeze/cough etiquette. • Social distancing requirements to minimise close contact applied to camps, wherever practical.	• 1.5 metre distancing maintained, except where unsafe. • Controls on occupancy and social distance for messing facilities. • Staggered mealtimes to reduce workers congregating.
8. Community engagement.	• Continued essential services provision including health services, electricity and emergency response capability. Strict hygiene protocols are in place for employees undertaking essential services in communities • Appropriate arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees returning from sites to remote communities. • Supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Councils and/or health service providers to undertake awareness activities and implement hygiene protocols	• Ceasing face-to-face activities where possible while maintaining strong engagement, including support for community-led health planning and local economic activity.
9. Support the Mental Health and wellbeing of employees.	• A range of initiatives in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of employees and their families.	• Operators make available access to 24/7 Employee Assistance Programs via call centres available to all employees. • Proactive monitoring of workforce mental health. • Information on mental health provided to workers.

10. Support for individuals in high risk groups.	• Provision of additional support for individuals in high risk groups.	• Proactive support for individuals with underlying health problems that increase vulnerability to COVID-19 including:
		  o Diabetes
		  o Hypertension
		  o Obesity
		  o Cancer therapy
		  o Respiratory disease

11. Critical suppliers and contractors	• Application of this protocol to suppliers and contractors.	• Contractors provided with information on requirements and restrictions. • Contractors will be required to have pandemic management plans in place and are kept up to date with operator response measures. • Contractors who present symptoms while on site (office or facility) will be provided with immediate care response.
Marine service		
12. Contracted marine service providers implement infectious disease control plans	• Marine service providers infectious disease control plans apply	
Isolation, quarantine, and evacuation protocols		
13. Operators will maintain isolation and quarantine and evacuation protocols in accordance with government requirements.	• Written protocols developed and tested in accordance with Government requirements.	• Personnel showing symptoms will be immediately isolated. • Members of the workforce that are identified as close contacts will also be quarantined on confirmation of a confirmed case. • Identification of contacts - personnel that had come in contact with a suspected case will be notified. • Relevant state regulator and health authorities to be advised of confirmed COVID-19 infection. • APPEA to be advised as soon as practical.

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Infection Control (Clean up)		
14. Suspected infected worker's workspace and accommodation sanitised and cleaned.	• All proponents to ensure communicable disease management protocols in place to manage a suspected case in accordance with government health guidelines.	• Maintain adequate supplies of cleaning and sanitising chemicals.
15. Catering and hotelling staff aware of, and practicing, enhanced safety and hygiene practices.	• All proponents to ensure communicable disease management protocols in place to manage a suspected case in accordance with government health guidelines.	• Additional cleaning and sanitising will be conducted in accordance with government guidelines.