

Information on Covid-19

Monday, May 11th, 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

— **What is the health-related guidance when a work area has proved to be contaminated?**

Prior to the reopening of establishment, the employer, along with the occupational health, has to set up an ad hoc procedure for taking charge of employees exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19.

In order to help identifying contact person in the event of a confirmed case, a record of contacts and their role shall be elaborated.

When an employee is exhibiting symptoms, (particularly fever and/or cough, difficulty breathing, speaking, swallowing, loss of smell and taste), a protocol must be as follows:

- **Social distancing;**
- **Protection;**
- **Looking for serious symptoms.**

After taking charge of the employee, employers must contact the occupational health service and follow its instructions, including for the cleaning of the workplace and the monitoring of employees.

In the event of contamination, the following measures should be taken, as the coronavirus can likely survive for three hours on dry surfaces:

- Equip those in charge of cleaning floors and surfaces with single-use lab coats, cleaning gloves (the use of respiratory protective masks is not necessary, as particles on floors and surfaces cannot become airborne).
- Floor upkeep: opt preferably for a wet washing-disinfection strategy (single-use washing strip soaked in detergent product; rinse using water from drinking water system, using another single-use washing strip; allow adequate drying time; disinfect using a chlorine-based product with a single-use washing strip).
- Waste generated by the contaminated person can be disposed of via the usual method.

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Allow contaminated employees to take time off work (depending on the physician's advice) or work from home (suspected contamination). Working patterns will need to be reconsidered and the situation monitored for at least 14 days. The mere fact that an employee has been contaminated is not enough, subject to the sovereign opinion of the courts, to be construed as reasonable grounds to exercise the right of withdrawal.

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