

Draft Risk Re-Assessment Checklist

The pandemic is not over. Vaccination rates are improving the situation. However, vaccination alone will not be sufficient to halt SARS-CoV2 and COVID-19. We still need to ensure that employers are taking all reasonable precautions for the protection of workers with respect to SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

This checklist tool is intended to be used to ensure that all aspects of SARS-CoV2 transmission are being contemplated, including the hazards of aerosols and of Variants of Concerns (VoCs). This is particularly important since VoCs are more easily transmitted and can sometimes escape vaccine coverage.

Any “no” or “N/A” response should be brought to the attention of the health and safety system and discussed at a JHSC meeting. This tool is to be used to complement the OHS System Assessment for COVID-19 of [checklist tool](#).

Aerosol transmission Risk Assessments (RA)

Risk assessment programs are not fixed. They must contemplate new information and have a plan to respond to any new information respecting risks. Employers have an obligation to remain current on information that is available publicly and is known in their sectors.

During the pandemic, the information respecting transmission risks has been updated to reflect the risks of aerosols. The Public Health Agency of Canada¹ reflects transmission risks from inhalation when infected individuals are talking, singing, shouting, sneezing and coughing. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention includes breathing outlines that these aerosols can be inhaled².

Aerosol transmission RA	Yes	No	N/A
Is the RA specific to the workplace?			
Is the RA specific to the work performed?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work <u>within 2 metres</u> of an individual with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work <u>for more than 15 cumulative minutes</u> (for the entire workday) with an individual with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work <u>where more than 5 people</u> with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work <u>continuously being exposed to</u> individuals with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work <u>with an unmasked</u> individual with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			

Aerosol transmission RA	Yes	No	N/A
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work in a closed space (where there is no adequate ventilation) of an individual with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status?			
Does the RA contemplate the situations when and where a worker may have to work with individuals with unknown COVID-19 status and unknown vaccination status where people are moving around?			

Variants of Concern (VoCs)

Variants of Concern are defined as strains of SARS-CoV-2 that have different features. In some cases, the VoCs have changed:

- disease spread
- disease severity
- tests used to detect the virus
- vaccines and treatments

Information from the Public Health Agency of Canada indicates that Alpha variant is still the dominant strain and that Alpha and Delta VoCs are at least 50% more transmissible³. In addition, there is evidence that vaccination status alone may not protect workers from negative health outcomes.

Variants of Concerns transmission risk assessment (RA)	Yes	No	N/A
Does the RA contemplate revisions to the controls based on new VoCs?			
Have the control measures been revised to address the increased risks from VoC?			
Does the RA contemplate the increased risks from the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7)?			
Does the RA contemplate the increased risks from the Delta variant (B.1.617.2)?			
Does the RA program include how new information respecting new VoCs will be communicated to workers?			

Additional CUPE Resources

Aerosolization Risks Assessments

<https://cupe.ca/covid-19-aerosolization-risk-assessment>

COVID-19 General OHS System Checklist Tool

<https://cupe.ca/general-health-and-safety-system-checklist-covid-19>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a8> accessed on June 30th, 2021.