

# Health and Safety Excellence program changes in response to COVID-19

## Topic changes and deadline extensions available

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, WSIB understands this is a challenging time for businesses. As such, they want to make it easier for you to respond to the pandemic, ensure the health and safety of your employees, and continue to benefit from the Health and Safety Excellence program. Noting this, the following changes to the Health and Safety Excellence program have been implemented to provide you with more flexibility and support.

Please contact Workplace Safety North to access the following options, available until further notice:

| Health and Safety Excellence program changes in response to Covid-19              | Details  |
|---|--|
| <b>#1: Change topics on approved action plan</b>                                  | <p>If you already have an approved action plan, you <b>may change your topic selection to address the impact of COVID-19</b>; keeping in mind the Excellence program is intended to reward implementation of <b>NEW</b> health and safety initiatives. Some relevant topics related to pandemic response are emergency prevention and preparedness, in conjunction with emergency response. While these may appear to be the most relevant options, the program has the flexibility to select the topics that work best for your program or management system.</p> <p>Reason for selecting topics may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting employee mental health through the pandemic</li> <li>○ Promote health and safety to raise awareness</li> <li>○ Defines work plan to address pandemic</li> <li>○ Enhances preparedness to address pandemic</li> <li>○ Helps develop pandemic response capability</li> <li>○ Define PPE to limit exposure to COVID-19</li> <li>○ Identifies responsibilities for pandemic response</li> </ul> |
| <b>#2: Extension deadline to complete and submit evidence of topic completion</b> | <p>If you require more time to complete topics and submit validation evidence, an extension will be provided beyond the current 12-month time limit. Evidence of topic completion can be submitted to the WSIB for validation up to 15 months from the action plan approval date (including the review of evidence by the provider). This timeframe may be extended depending on how things evolve.</p>  |
| <b>#3: Extended deadline to develop and submit an action plan</b>                 | <p>There is flexibility with the 90-day expiration date for action plan submission, which will continue to be offered to you.</p>  |

The landscape has quickly changed, and we are facing an unprecedented situation. WSIB wants to let you know that they are actively working to help you navigate through this difficult time.