

**Statement of ILO Office for Turkey on Protection of Safety and Health of Workers during
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

24 March 2020, Ankara

The world of work is seriously affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The virus is expected to impact public health as well as millions of people economically and socially. Governments, workers' and employers' organisations have a crucial role in combating the pandemic to ensure the safety of workers and sustain jobs and businesses.

In this context, the ILO Office for Turkey underlines the following measures to protect the safety and health of workers:

Social dialogue:

1. Effectively use social dialogue to take effective measures swiftly at all levels;
2. Workers' and employers' organisations to participate in decision-making and take active roles in implementing anti-crisis policies;
3. Workers' organisations to share accurate information to help protect workers. Protect fundamental rights at work of unwell and at-risk workers particularly.

Duties on employers:

1. Inform workers regularly, provide necessary training focusing on workplace cleanliness and order, hygiene and psycho-social risk factors;
2. Establish all necessary hygiene conditions and safety measures at workplace (establish workplace hygiene and cleanliness particularly for services frequently and/or jointly used, contacted work areas, vehicles, devices and equipment. Make disinfectants available particularly at lavatories, toilets, baths, stair rails, faucets, mess halls, dormitories, elevators etc.; examine vehicles, devices and equipment, and ensure maximum compliance with hygiene rules);
3. Update emergency plans considering COVID-19;
4. Monitor developments and make risk assessments daily at workplace level;
5. Protect all workers including particularly the at-risk group since the disease is highly likely to severely affect at-risk groups such as those with chronic conditions like immune-deficiency, diabetes, coronary and pulmonary diseases, those with compromised immune systems and older workers;
6. Encourage unwell workers to stay home and rest;
7. Raise awareness on virus impact on workplace considering COVID-19 arrangements and policies, prepare a plan for contingencies;
8. Suspend or postpone business travels;
9. Refer potentially infected workers to quarantine;
10. Consider teleworking if possible depending on the nature of work.

Duties on workers:

1. Since COVID-19 spreads mainly through respiratory droplets, pay maximum attention to workplace hygiene practices such as regular hand-washing, using hand and surface sanitiser, cover mouth and nose during cough or sneeze by a disposable tissue or inner side of own elbow. Avoid hand-shake or hug when saluting, keep at least 3 to 4 feet with those showing symptoms of cold;
2. Those showing disease symptoms to self-quarantine or go to the nearest health facility;
3. Be fully aware of the obligation to comply with collective protective measures.