

Interviewing for a Part- or Full-Time Job during COVID

Finding and being hired for a job during the COVID-19 outbreak can be a challenge, but both part-time and full-time jobs are available for those willing to search. As noted in the previous *Career Headlines*, you may not locate your dream job, but these available positions pay, and you can learn important soft skills for future work.

Are job interviews happening in-person or online? In general, first interviews usually are conducted by phone, with follow-up interviews by video, phone or in person.

Do I need to wear a mask or plan for any other safety precautions during an in-person interview? Most companies do not allow you to enter their work site or building without a face mask.

- You may be asked to call when you arrive in the parking lot. Expect to wait in your car until you are allowed to enter the building.
- You may be greeted outside or after entering by a person who will take your temperature and ask questions about your health. (Do you have a cough?) You may be asked about recent activities that might have put you in touch with a COVID-infected person. (Did you travel out of state in the last two weeks?)
- The interviewer will be wearing a mask and will direct you to sit six feet away. You may be asked to sanitize your hands with a product provided by the interviewer.
- Reschedule if you are not feeling well the day of the interview. The company will respect your decision because it does not want you to spread an illness.



Is there anything else I should know before arriving for an interview? Ask if the work will be completed at a job site or whether you can work virtually from home. This may affect your decision regarding whether you want the job.

Industries considered essential during COVID-19 include childcare; agriculture and food products; critical retail (grocery stores, hardware stores, automobile repair); critical trades (construction, electrical, plumbing); transportation; energy-related; water and wastewater; and nonprofit and social service organizations.

Action: Imagine that you will go for a job interview. Which of the interviewing practices above are different from what you expected?

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Note to teachers: Share your own experiences after visiting a doctor's office or indoor-dining restaurant. This will add to students' understanding of COVID-19 protocols followed by professional establishments.

As writing is an essential requirement for most jobs in any occupation or trade, students are likely to be asked about their writing abilities during an interview. If you have not used the sample lesson from our new *On the Job Writing* with your students, this is an excellent opportunity to infuse writing into your classes. The title of the sample lesson is "Who is Reading" and features the key concept "Know Your Reading Audience." [Click here for a sample lesson.](#)

To view our online career readiness curriculum catalog, [click here.](#)

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We translate complex concepts into simple, practical lessons.***

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