

Organization Name

Name of Meeting or Conference

City, State | Date

Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

Occupational exposure risks

- **Workers in some sectors may have increased risk of occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2, including in:**
 - Healthcare and Laboratories
 - Emergency response
 - Mortuary services and other deathcare
 - Airline operations
 - Border protection and passenger screening
 - Critical retail operations (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies)



Photo: U.S. Customs and Border Protection / James Tourtellotte

Occupational exposure risks

- **Workers in other sectors, including some in critical infrastructure, may be at risk because of frequent or long-duration contact with coworkers:**
 - Food processing (including meatpacking)
 - Manufacturing
 - Construction
 - Oil and gas
 - Other sectors where workers would typically be within 6 feet of one another



Exposure risk – very high

- Healthcare workers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, paramedics, EMTs) performing or present for aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, CPR, some dental procedures and exams, invasive specimen collection) on known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Healthcare or laboratory personnel collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Morgue workers performing autopsies on the bodies of people who are known to have, or suspected of having COVID-19 at the time of their death.

Exposure risk – high

- Healthcare delivery and support staff (e.g. doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff who must enter patients rooms) exposed to known or suspected COVID-19 patients. (While NO aerosol generating procedures are being performed.)
- Medical transport workers (e.g., ambulance vehicle operators) moving known or suspected COVID-19 patients in enclosed vehicles.
- Mortuary workers involved in preparing the bodies of people who are known to have, or suspected of having COVID-19 at the time of their death.

Exposure risk – medium

- Jobs that require frequent (i.e., more than a few minutes) and/or close (i.e., within 6 feet) contact with people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, but who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Examples include:
 - Critical retail workers, such as those in pharmacies and grocery stores.
 - Transit workers, such as bus drivers, subway operators, and taxi drivers.
 - Workers in other transportation operations.

Exposure risk – low (caution)

- Jobs that do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 nor frequent close contact with (within 6 feet) of the general public.
- Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.

OSHA guidance

- OSHA has developed a variety of guidance materials for workers and employers on how to stay healthy during the pandemic.
- **OSHA.gov/coronavirus** includes information on implementing the hierarchy of controls when workers have specific exposure risks.

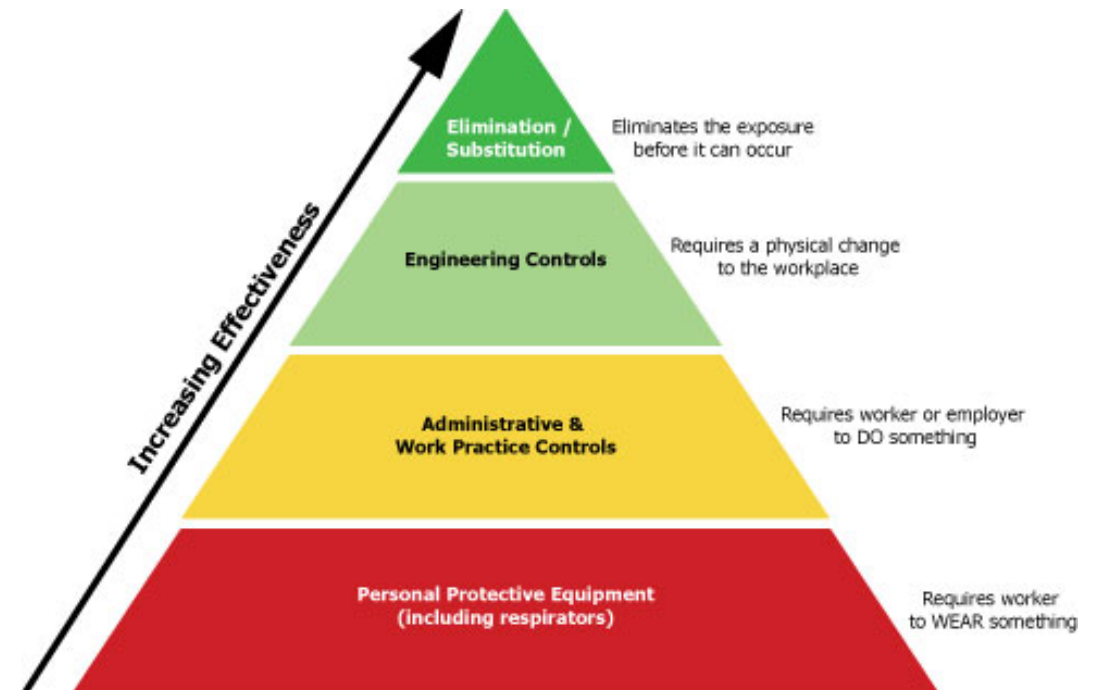


www.osha.gov/coronavirus

OSHA guidance

For U.S. workers and employers of workers with potential occupational exposures to COVID-19:

- Identify and isolate suspected cases.
- Implement other precautions appropriate for the worksite and job tasks, and according to the hierarchy of controls.



OSHA guidance

For all workers, regardless of specific exposure risks:

- Practice good and frequent hand hygiene.
- Follow good cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Photo: U.S. Department of Defense

OSHA guidance

- Employers should implement protocols for regularly cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces in the work environment.
 - Wipe down surfaces such as door push bars, shopping carts, points of sale, chairs in waiting areas, and other areas that customers, visitors, or workers frequently touch.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for use of all EPA-approved cleaning and disinfection products.
- CDC provides detailed guidance for environmental cleaning and disinfection.

OSHA guidance

- Train all workers about their risk of occupational exposure to COVID-19 as well as on what to do if they have traveled to high-risk areas or been exposed to possible cases.
- For workers at particular risk of exposure (e.g., in healthcare, others), discuss:
 - Sources of exposure to the virus and hazards associated with that exposure.
 - Appropriate ways to prevent or reduce the likelihood of exposure, including use of engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE.
- Some OSHA standards (e.g., BBP, PPE) require worker training.

Existing OSHA standards protect workers from exposure

- Follow existing OSHA standards to help protect workers from exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and infection with COVID-19.
- Employers should also remember that OSHA can use the General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1), of the Occupational Safety and Health Act to ensure that workers are protected from recognized safety and health hazards that may cause serious harm.

Relevant OSHA requirements

- Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910 subpart I), including:
 - PPE General Requirements (1910.132)
 - Eye and Face Protection (1910.133)
 - Respiratory Protection (1910.134)
 - Hand Protection (29 CFR 1910.138)
- Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030)
- Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)
- Recordkeeping (29 CFR part 1904)

OSHA enforcement

OSHA:

- Typically responds to emergencies, including disease outbreaks, in a technical assistance posture.
- Provides compliance assistance to employers to help ensure workers are protected.
- Provides technical assistance and support to other federal agencies, as well as state/local partners.
- Implemented interim enforcement plan for investigating COVID complaints, while ensuring the safety of workers, employers, and inspectors.

www.osha.gov/coronavirus

OSHA enforcement authority

- During emergency response operations, even when OSHA is operating in a technical assistance and support mode, OSHA standards remain in effect and OSHA retains its ability to enforce the OSHA standards under the OSH Act.
- Enforcement of OSHA standards follows the jurisdiction in place before the emergency, such as in states operating OSHA-approved occupational safety and health programs called State Plans.

OSHA enforcement discretion

OSHA has provided enforcement discretion for some of its requirements, including:

- **Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134)**
- **Other health standards with respirator requirements**
- **Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness (29 CFR Part 1904)**

Memorandum	Effective
Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak	March 14, 2020 - present
Enforcement Guidance for Respiratory Protection and the N95 Shortage Due to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic	April 3, 2020 - present
Enforcement Guidance for Use of Respiratory Protection Equipment Certified Under Standards of Other Countries or Jurisdictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic	April 3, 2020 - present
Expanded Temporary Enforcement Guidance on Respiratory Protection Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces in All Industries During the COVID-19 Pandemic	April 8, 2020 - present
Enforcement Guidance for Recording Cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	April 10, 2020 - present
Enforcement Guidance on Decontamination of Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare During the COVID-19 Pandemic	April 24, 2020 - present