



World Safety Organization NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2021

OSHA RELEASES NEW, STRONGER GUIDANCE ON COVID-19

Article by Guy Burdick

Guy Burdick is a writer for EHS Daily Advisor, a sibling publication to HealthLeaders

This article was originally published February 3, 2021 on PSQH

The guidance includes a recommendation to provide COVID-19 vaccination at no cost to employees.

On January 29, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued stronger workplace health and safety guidance for protecting employees from COVID-19 exposures.

On January 21, President Joe Biden ordered OSHA to issue updated guidance within two weeks and consider establishing an emergency temporary standard (ETS) for workplace COVID-19 protections by March 15.

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic. The disease is a recognized workplace health hazard, creating employer obligations to protect employees.

The guidance includes a recommendation to provide COVID-19 vaccination at no cost to employees. Other essential elements of a prevention program detailed in the newly issued guidelines include:

- Conducting a workplace hazard assessment;
- Identifying control measures to limit the spread of the virus;
- Adopting policies for employee absences that don't punish workers so that potentially infected workers are encouraged to remain at home;
- Ensuring that coronavirus policies and procedures are clearly communicated to both English- and non-English-speaking workers; and
- Implementing protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.



"OSHA is updating its guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus and improve worker protections so businesses can operate safely and employees can stay safe and working," Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick said in an agency statement.

Key measures offered in the guidance for limiting the spread of COVID-19 include separating and sending home infected or potentially infected people in the workplace, implementing physical distancing, installing barriers where physical distancing cannot be maintained, and using face coverings.

The guidance also covers use of personal protective equipment (PPE), when necessary; providing hand-washing supplies for good hygiene; routine cleaning and disinfection; and ventilation improvements (in accordance with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers' (ASHRAE) [Guidance for Building Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)).

(Cont. on pg. 3)

from the desk of

DR. CHARLES H. BAKER

Chief Operations Officer



Welcome to the World Safety Organization February Newsletter. As always we hope you find the articles interesting and informative. It seems some things never change or change very slowly. Who would have thought that one year later, we are still in the throws of the Viral Pandemic? And still no end in sight.

If you are like the rest of us, this pandemic is taking up much of our time and energy as we try to stay safe and avoid infection. I know we are doing all we can to keep those around us safe. And then to top that, the last two weeks have brought devastating weather conditions in several places around the world. Most notable to us, are conditions in the US where lack of electricity and other resources have left millions of people in very unsafe and hazardous conditions. Again, I hope everyone is safe and we are starting to work out of these conditions.

We are now into the second month of the new year and looking forward to the rest of the year with great promise. I'm sure this will be a transition year back toward something more normal. We do hope that membership thinks about the World Safety Organization and the need to recruit more certified members. While we are thinking of safety considerations with weather and virus, it might be a good time to talk to your friends and associates about a certified membership in World Safety Organization. Remember our certifications are accredited by ICAC making them more valuable in the professional world.

I want to personally thank the World Safety team Members, Stephanie and Wanda, in our WMC, who every day try to make our professional life easier. This year has been a tough one for them also. But know, if you have questions or need assistance with your safety concerns, they are there to assist with a smile. Also, let us know if we can do anything to make the newsletter more usable or valuable to you. We appreciate your comments.

Thank you and be safe!
CHB

WE NEED YOU

Do you blog?

Do you write articles for your company's newsletter?

Do you have relevant information to share?

Did your company or agency sponsor a special safety-focused event?

Does your company or agency have an upcoming safety-focused event you wish to promote?

If so, we would love to feature your content in a future WSO NewsLetter or TechLetter!

Just email your article/ blog, author(s) byline, brief bio, and photo to us: editorialstaff@worldsafety.org

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OSHA RELEASES NEW, STRONGER GUIDANCE ON COVID-19

(Cont. from pg. 1)

OSHA's updated guidance recommends that employers take the following steps:

- Assign a workplace coordinator who will be responsible for all COVID-19 issues.
- Perform a thorough hazard assessment that involves workers and their representatives to identify potential workplace hazards related to COVID-19.
- Identify precautions in line with the hierarchy of controls: elimination, substitution, engineering controls like installing physical barriers, workplace administrative policies, and PPE.
- Consider enhanced protections, such as telework or work in less densely, better ventilated facilities, for workers at higher risk for severe illness, such as older adults and those who have serious underlying medical conditions putting them at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Educate and train workers on COVID-19 symptoms and hazards, as well as the policies and procedures established and implemented for their protection.
- Isolate workers who show symptoms at work and instruct infected or potentially infected workers to isolate or quarantine at home.
- Perform enhanced cleaning and disinfection after people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the workplace.
- Provide workers with information and guidance on COVID-19 screening and testing, following state or local guidance for screening and viral testing in workplaces, and make a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccination series available at no cost to all eligible employees.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS

We will permanently close our PO Box this month.

Please send any future correspondence to our physical address:

106 W Young St #F
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Developing Health and Safety Programs

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(in collaboration with the World Safety Organisation London (UK Chapter)

**Rasib Hussain, WSO-CSM, EuroOSHM, FIIRSM, CMIOSH Director, AJP Safety Ltd,
Vice President, WSO London Chapter**

As we enter 2021, the global pandemic is still a major challenge and a dominating factor, shaping decisions in virtually everyone's lives. There has been encouraging recent news about coronavirus vaccines but as to which vaccines are likely to be the most effective is still unsure. Trials need to confirm that the vaccine is safe and development on a vast scale must happen for the billions of potential doses. However, as I write, the breaking news is that the UK has just become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine for widespread use which brings some light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime, here in England we have moved into a three – tier system of coronavirus restrictions with a region by region approach but different variations within the rest of the UK.

Given these perilous times I wanted to share with you my experiences as a Health and Safety Practitioner working with all types of organisations where the pandemic has had a significant material impact. I was largely encouraged to write this by Dr Jerry Cammarata's inspiring article around practices and performances where he urges practitioners to "challenge ourselves to think how we can retool our safety and health programs so we can benefit from the pan-demic disruption of our work lives," (August 2020 Newsletter). From the first lockdown in March 2020, we have helped numerous organisations carry out COVID-19 risk assessments through considering the risks and now within the context of the UK Government's easing of lockdown restrictions. If anything, we have learned the importance of the content of these risk assessments must be shared with employees. This was an important part of the process, to identify and address any employee concerns.

Managing the risk is an ongoing process and involvement of those concerned was found to be vital. Overall I found that great minds at all levels of organisations working together helped rebuild and rise up from the effects of the pandemic.



A further area to consider is one of the biggest transformations, which is the rapid adjustment organisations have had to make as they switch to a "work from home" culture. These remote working practices will affect the way most people work and interact with each other which will generate both challenges and benefits. In the WSO March 2020 Newsletter I wrote about "Tips for Working at Home" which broadly remain the same and I would suggest it would be useful for colleagues to revisit that article. In general organisations have reacted quickly to the pandemic consequently allowing their employees to work from home but not in ideal conditions due to a lack of change planning. In the UK the Health and Safety Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Regulations apply to workers who use DSE daily, for an hour or more at a time and are described as 'DSE users'. The regulations do not apply to workers who use DSE infrequently or only use it for a short time (UK HSE).

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Developing Health and Safety Programs

during COVID-19 Pandemic

(in collaboration with the World Safety Organisation London (UK Chapter)

(Cont. from pg. 4)

The main risks that may arise in work with DSE are musculoskeletal disorders such as back pain or upper limb disorders (sometimes known as repetitive strain injury or RSI), visual fatigue, and mental stress. AJP Safety now provide short duration DSE advice to staff members who are particularly struggling with their work set-up at home and set out recommendations for changes and equipment. In cases where a staff member is having particularly complex or severe issues a detailed DSE Assessment via Video link is made.

The risk of mental stress/health has already been mentioned in particular where employees spend all day long in their work space and have no social contact. Social isolation has a severe impact on mental health which in part is driven by the loss of human contact. As a response AJP Safety is offering 40-minute webinars to teach important lifestyle habits to staff members to carry them through their working life and beyond. The focus is to boost the emotional health and coping mechanisms, improving productivity, job satisfaction and reducing absence.

This entire year has been dominated by the COVID-19 causing untold human suffering and death especially placing health systems under severe strain.

Despite all the negative aspects, my experience as a Health and Safety Practitioner has revealed that most clients have adapted and redeployed their efforts in protecting their people and organisations. I do hope you find the issues that I have briefly discussed informative and instructive.

On behalf of the WSO London Chapter and AJP Safety I wish you all a safe and happy 2021.

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COVID-19: Disinfecting Shared Vehicles

Submitted by John Quinn, co-creator www.safetyknowledgehub.ca

For most of us, COVID 19 has been a significant and often stressful experience. It has had a huge impact on us as individuals, as a society and as a workforce. Many of the norms of life have changed, some of them forever. Things that we took for granted are either not allowed or a lot more difficult to do. One of the biggest changes that happened was the shift to working from home. This has reduced the risk for a large portion of the workforce (although it comes with its own set of challenges). It is likely that even when the pandemic is over, many will still work from home. However, one of the biggest challenges we face is what happens to the majority of workers who can't work from home. The wearing of masks, physical barriers and social distancing are the new norms. Frequent and thorough hand washing is the new golden rule, with hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol being provided if soap and running water is not immediately available. Encouraging workers to stay home if they are sick and promoting respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes are common. The sharing of tools and equipment is actively discouraged. However, there are instances when this is not practicable.

One area affected is the sharing of vehicles. The disinfecting of a shared vehicle before and after use has become a prerequisite. So how do you do disinfect your shared vehicle?

A quick search on the internet will provide you with information that you can use as reference. Here are some key points:

Having the Right Tools

It is recommended that you use either disposable gloves or a dedicated pair of reusable gloves when disinfecting your shared vehicle. The gloves should be compatible with the products being used and other PPE may be required depending on the Safety Data Sheet or product manufacturer's instructions.

Having disinfectant wipes and disposable gloves available in the vehicle may make it easier to guarantee compliance.

Always ensure you have adequate ventilation when cleaning materials are in use. Doors and windows should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.



Focus on Common Vehicle Touchpoints

You will want to clean the commonly touched surfaces in the vehicle that you will come into contact with the most. These will be the hard non-porous surfaces within the interior of the vehicle such as the door handles, steering wheel, seatbelts, gear shift, lights, windows and air conditioning controls, grab handles and other touch points on your dashboard. Don't forget to include the key in your cleaning regime.

For frequently touched electronic surfaces, such as tablets or touch screens that are present in the vehicle, disinfect following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If there is no manufacturer guidance available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol.

A written cleaning and disinfection procedure can help make sure that the cleaning is followed consistently and correctly.

After Cleaning

Gloves and any other disposable PPE used when cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle should be removed and disposed of after use. You should wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after the removal of gloves and other PPE. If soap and water are not available use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Here is a link to a quick video guide on how to disinfect your shared vehicle.

<https://safetyknowledgehub.ca/covid-19-disinfecting-shared-vehicles>

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING HELPS PREVENT JOB SITE HAZARDS

Submitted by Scott Masters, WSO-CSM; Contract Employee, Construction Lead Safety Specialist, Alliant Corporation; Tennessee and South Carolina USA

Believe it or not, OSHA cares how neat and tidy you are on the job site. Messy projects mean the potential for OSHA poor housekeeping citations.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in recent years, there are more than 800 injuries annually involving floors, walkways, and ground surfaces. OSHA issues hundreds of citations to companies for violations of poor housekeeping and OSHA lists housekeeping on their top 100 most frequently cited list. Workers should do their part to help prevent injuries and incidents by practicing good housekeeping on every job and at every worksite.

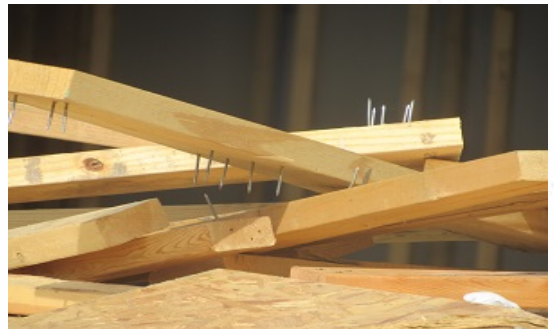
Housekeeping should be a regular topic in safety meetings and the job supervisor will have the opportunity at the safety meeting to reinforce company policies on housekeeping and go over the OSHA standards that apply to that job site.

OSHA Construction Standard 1926.25(a) says that during the course of construction, alteration, or repairs, form and scrap lumber with protruding nails, and all other debris, shall be kept cleared from work areas, passageways, and stairs, in and around buildings or other structures.



OSHA General Industry Standard 1910.22(a)(1)
All places of employment, passageways, storerooms, service rooms, and walking-working surfaces are kept in a clean, orderly, and sanitary condition.

OSHA General Industry Standard 1910.141(a)(3)(i) All places of employment shall be kept clean to the extent that the nature of the work allows.



OSHA Construction Standard 1926.252(c) All scrap lumber, waste material, and rubbish shall be removed from the immediate work area as the work progresses.

OSHA General Industry Standard 1910.22(a)(3)
Walking-working surfaces are maintained free of hazards such as sharp or protruding objects, loose boards, corrosion, leaks, spills, snow, and ice.

Waste and scrap materials must be removed from the immediate work area to avoid creating trip and slip hazards where there is active work ongoing. Work areas must be kept clear as the work progresses. Pipe, conduit, rebar and any other material that can roll must be kept away from aisles and walkways to avoid creating trip hazards.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING HELPS PREVENT JOB SITE HAZARDS

(CONT. FROM PG. 7)



OSHA General Industry Standard 1910.22(a)(2)

The floor of each workroom is maintained in a clean and, to the extent feasible, in a dry condition. When wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained and, to the extent feasible, dry standing places, such as false floors, platforms, and mats must be provided.

Use designated waste bins, recycle bins, and metal scrap containers. Entry ways, walkways, and sidewalks should be kept free of water, ice, snow, and other potential trip, slip, or fall hazards.

OSHA Construction Standard 1926.252(a) says that whenever materials are dropped more than 20 feet to any point lying outside the exterior walls of the building, an enclosed chute of wood, or equivalent material, shall be used.

Designated waste bins recycle bins and metal scrap containers must be used on site. When disposing of waste or materials on a multi-story construction site, chutes or designated drop-off zones must be used to avoid possible fall or struck-by hazards.

OSHA Construction Standard 1926.252(b) says when debris is dropped through holes in the floor without the use of chutes, the area onto which the material is dropped shall be completely enclosed with barricades not less than 42 inches high and not less than 6 feet back from the projected edge of the opening above. Signs warning of the hazard of falling materials shall be posted at each level.



EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY: [SAFE HOME](#)



WSO Offers a Professional Membership Level

Being acknowledged as a Professional Member of a safety organization based upon one's education, years of knowledge, and experience in the Safety field is a goal for many to achieve. Not everyone has the college or university degree that is sometimes required to compete for an advanced level Occupational Safety Certification. Not everyone enjoys the Classroom environment of classroom training and potentially taking the computer-type exam, which does not always show one's true abilities in safety management and/or practice. There are many Safety Directors, Safety Coordinators, and Safety Specialists in the safety arena who have many years of experience but lack the mathematical expertise to pass a specific safety certification exam. However, by a submission of one's work/career credentials, résumé, professional references, safety seminar certificates, safety education, and

several testimonies from peers showing his/her elite level, safety practitioners and professionals can become a WSO Professional Member upon verification and approval. This membership level gives one a great opportunity to continue to gain knowledge as a member of the WSO, network with and learn from other members, and attend our annual Symposium featuring world-class safety professionals from around the world presenting various types of safety modules. The minimum requirements can be found on Page 6 or in the WSO Membership and Certification Program booklet. To request a WSO Membership and Certification Program booklet or for more information to apply for or upgrade to the WSO Professional membership, please contact the WSO WMC by telephone or email, or submit the ONLINE REQUEST, and we will email the information to you.



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WSO's 34th Annual International *Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health* **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**



WSO Board of Directors

Requirements for WSO Professional Membership

WSO Professional Members are safety, hazard, risk, loss and accident prevention professionals performing full time activities in these fields.

WSO Professional Members are safety, hazard, risk, loss and accident prevention professionals performing full time activities in these fields.

Along with the Professional Membership Application, current resume, and WSO Code of Conduct, the following documentation is to be submitted:

- 1) Two Letters of Recommendations as to one's safety abilities on the job.
- 2) Two Candidate Evaluations from colleagues, associates, or peers who know of one's abilities and successes.
- 3) Supporting documentation to include professional memberships, industry certifications and registrations, educational transcripts, etc.

Additionally, a minimum of 15 years of verifiable fulltime experience must be met with annual documentation of status or with the following combination of education and experience:

- 1) An Associate Degree plus 13 years of fulltime experience in safety and / or environmental science field.
- 2) A Bachelor's Degree plus 11 years of fulltime experience in safety and/ or environmental science.
- 3) A Graduate Certificate/ Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (or similar equivalent postgraduate university qualification) plus 10 years of fulltime experience in safety and/ or environmental science field.
- 4) A Master's Degree plus 9 years of fulltime experience in safety and/ or environmental science field.
- 5) A PhD plus 6 years of fulltime experience in the safety and/ or environmental science field.

Degrees should be in safety, physical sciences, engineering, safety management, security, or other curricula acceptable to the WSO Approval Board. Degrees are to be from approved and accredited colleges or universities.



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