

From: Amy Spohn <aspohn@uwsa.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:29 PM
Subject: OSHA's COVID-19 Information
Importance: High

EXTERNAL EMAIL

All,

Please take time to look at OSHA's [COVID-19 Information](#).

Items to note and a summary from the webpage:

- There is no specific OSHA standard covering COVID-19. However, some OSHA requirements may apply to preventing occupational exposure to COVID-19. Among the most relevant are:
 - OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards (in general industry, [29 CFR 1910 Subpart I](#)), which require using gloves, eye and face protection, and respiratory protection.
 - When respirators are necessary to protect workers, employers must implement a comprehensive respiratory protection program in accordance with the Respiratory Protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)).
 - OSHA has issued [temporary guidance](#) related to enforcement of respirator annual fit-testing requirements for healthcare.
- The General Duty Clause, [Section 5\(a\)\(1\)](#) of the [Occupational Safety and Health \(OSH\) Act of 1970](#), 29 USC 654(a)(1), which requires employers to furnish to each worker “employment and a place of employment, which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.”
- OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens standard ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#)) applies to occupational exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious materials that typically do not include respiratory secretions that may transmit COVID-19. However, the provisions of the standard offer a framework that may help control some sources of the virus, including exposures to [body fluids](#) (e.g., respiratory secretions) not covered by the standard.
- Employers must also protect their workers from exposure to [hazardous chemicals used for cleaning and disinfection](#). Employers should be aware that common sanitizers and sterilizers could contain hazardous chemicals. Where workers are exposed to hazardous chemicals, employers must comply with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard (in general industry, [29 CFR 1910.1200](#)), Personal Protective Equipment standards (in general industry [29 CFR 1910 Subpart I](#)) and other applicable OSHA chemical standards. OSHA provides information about hazardous chemicals used in hospitals in the [Housekeeping section](#) of its [Hospital eTool](#).

In addition: Depending on the specific work task, setting, and exposure to other biological or chemical agents, additional OSHA requirements that may apply include:

General Industry (29 CFR 1910)

[1910 Subpart I – Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[1910.132, General requirements](#)

Related Information

[Directives](#)

[Federal Register notices](#)

	Letters of interpretation Settlement agreements
1910.133, Eye and face protection	Topic Page Directives Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation
1910.134, Respiratory protection	Topic Page Directives Memo on enforcement of respirator annual fit-testing requirements for healthcare Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation Settlement agreements
1910.138, Hand protection	Directives Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation

[1910 Subpart J – General Environmental Controls](#)

1910.141, Sanitation	Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation
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[1910 Subpart Z – Toxic and Hazardous Substances](#)

1910.1020, Access to employee exposure and medical records	Directives Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation
1910.1030, Bloodborne pathogens	Topic Page Directives Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation
1910.1200, Hazard communication	Topic Page Congressional testimonies Directives Federal Register notices Letters of interpretation Memorandums of understanding Settlement agreements

[1910.1450, Occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in laboratories](#)

[Directives](#)

[Federal Register notices](#)

[Letters of interpretation](#)

In addition to the information above, I also encourage you to re-visit the following sites if you have not already:

- [What Law Enforcement Need to Know about COVID-19.](#)
- [Information for Healthcare Providers](#)

Thanks,
Amy

Amy Spohn
Risk Management Officer
University of Wisconsin System Administration
Office of Risk Management
608.262.4792