

COVID-19 Related Information and Standards

Information provide below is found under OSHA's Safety and Health Topics page.

This section highlights OSHA standards and directives (instructions for compliance officers) and other related information that may apply to worker exposure to novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

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).
- 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.

State Standards (Note added: Iowa is a Federal OSHA approved State)

There are twenty-eight OSHA-approved State Plans, operating state-wide occupational safety and health programs. State Plans are required to have standards and enforcement programs that are at least as effective as OSHA's and may have different or more stringent requirements.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) standard is aimed at preventing worker illness from infectious diseases that can be transmitted by inhaling air that contains viruses (including COVID-19), bacteria or other disease-causing organisms. While the Cal/OSHA ATD standard is only mandatory for certain healthcare employers in California, it may provide useful guidance for protecting other workers exposed to COVID-19.

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.

Other relevant OSHA standards

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

Recordkeeping and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness (29 CFR 1904)	Related Information
29 CFR 1904 – Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic Page
General Industry (29 CFR 1910)	Related Information
1910 Subpart I – Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Settlement agreements ▪ Topic Page ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Topic Page ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Settlement agreements ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation
1910.132, General requirements	
1910.133, Eye and face protection	
1910.134, Respiratory protection	
1910.138, Hand protection	
Subpart J – General Environmental Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation
1910.141, Sanitation	
Subpart Z – Toxic and Hazardous Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic page ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Topic Page ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Topic Page ▪ Congressional testimonies ▪ Directives ▪ Federal Register notices ▪ Letters of interpretation ▪ Memorandums of understanding ▪ Settlement agreements
1910.1020, Access to employee exposure and medical records	
1910.1030, Bloodborne pathogens	
1910.1200, Hazard communication	

**Recordkeeping and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness (29
CFR 1904)**

1910.1450, Occupational exposure to
hazardous chemicals in laboratories

Related Information

- Directives
- Federal Register notices
- Letters of interpretation