

CPWR-NIOSH Webinar – OSHA’s COVID-19 NEP

April 14, 2021

OSHA’S NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM - CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Increased Protections for Workers

Presidential Executive Order - Protecting Worker Health and Safety

- Issue revised guidance
- Consider emergency temporary standard (ETS)
- Evaluate enforcement efforts / develop national program
- Multilingual outreach campaign
 - Emphasis on most vulnerable/impacted workers

OSHA's COVID-19 NEP

National Emphasis Program Protecting Workers from COVID-19 Exposure

DIR 2021-01(CPL-03)

March 12, 2021

NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

- **Goal:** Substantially reduce or eliminate worker exposures
 - Combination of inspection targeting, outreach to employers, and compliance assistance.
- **Focus:**
 - Establishments that put the largest number of workers at serious risk of contracting the coronavirus.
 - To prevent retaliation against workers who complain about unsafe or unhealthful conditions or exercise other rights.

NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

■ Focused Enforcement

- Inspections will focus on industries and worksites with tasks that have high frequency close contact exposures with increased potential exposure.
- Inspections will follow current priorities:
 - Unprogrammed
 - Follow Up
 - Programmed

Important Dates for the COVID-19 National Emphasis Program



NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

■ Interim Enforcement Guidance

- Updated plan replaces May 26, 2020 guidance
- Goals:
 - Identify exposures to COVID-19 hazards;
 - Ensure that appropriate control measures are implemented
 - Address violations of OSHA standards and the General Duty Clause.
- Remains in effect until further notice.

NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

■ Interim Enforcement Guidance

– Prioritizes

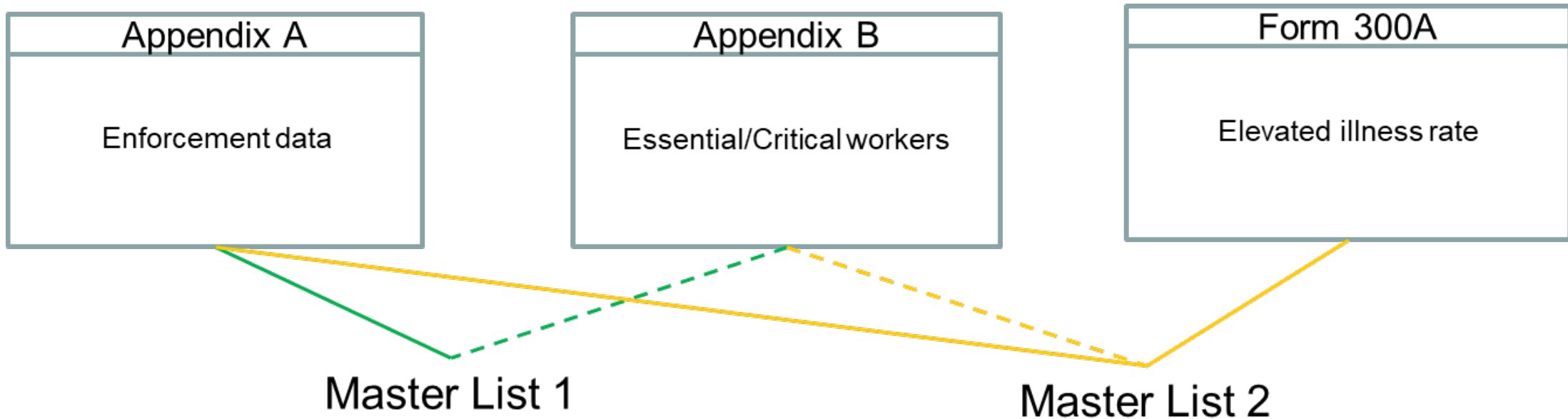
- On-site workplace inspections where practical, or a combination of on-site and remote methods.
- COVID-19-related inspections involving deaths or multiple hospitalizations and complaints/referrals alleging potential exposure to COVID-19-related hazards.
- Use of remote methods for employee interviews and collection of documentation to minimize person-to-person contact

NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

■ Interim Enforcement Guidance

- Supports the NEP
 - Implementing programmed inspections targeting industries where:
 - OSHA has previously identified increased enforcement activity; and/or
 - establishments with elevated rates of respiratory illnesses in CY 2020.
 - Ensuring workers are protected from retaliation
- Provides specific inspection and citation guidance for all COVID-19-related inspections, until further notice.

Targeted Industries for Programmed Inspections



- Establishments with < 10 workers are included

NEP to Prevent Worker Exposure to COVID-19

- **Outreach and Compliance Assistance**
 - Nationwide outreach with industry, labor, and alliances.
 - Continued outreach using products and activities:
 - New information shared through letters, news releases, social media, and QuickTakes.
 - Seminars tailored to specific audiences.
 - Working with national and regional offices of federal agencies.

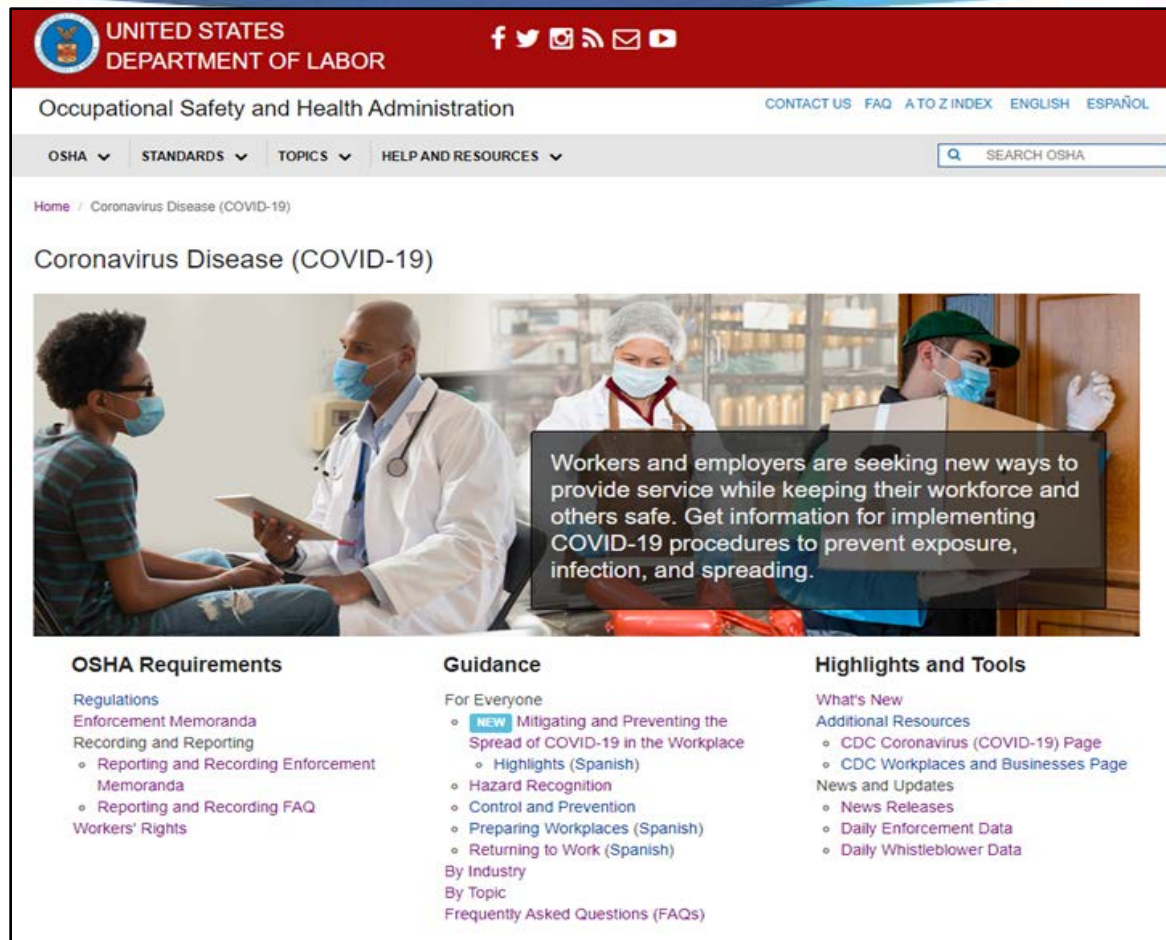
Revised Guidance

- Implement COVID-19 Prevention Programs tailored to each workplace.
- Engage workers and their representatives in program development.
- Programs should include:
 - a hazard assessment;
 - a combination of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace;
 - measures to ensure infected or potentially infected workers are excluded from the workplace;
 - protections from retaliation for workers who raise COVID-related concerns; and
 - educating and training workers of COVID-19 policies and procedures in a language they understand.

Revised Guidance

- Guidance provides additional details on:
 - separating and sending home infected or potentially infected people from the workplace;
 - implementing physical distancing;
 - suppressing the spread by using surgical masks or cloth face coverings; and
 - use of personal protective equipment.
- Guidance will be updated as needed to reflect latest developments in science, best practices, and standards.
 - Changes will be tracked to ensure transparency.

OSHA COVID-19 Resources



The screenshot shows the OSHA website's COVID-19 resources page. At the top, there is a red header with the United States Department of Labor logo and social media icons. Below the header, the page title is "Occupational Safety and Health Administration". A navigation menu includes "OSHA", "STANDARDS", "TOPICS", and "HELP AND RESOURCES". A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a large image of healthcare workers and a text overlay that reads: "Workers and employers are seeking new ways to provide service while keeping their workforce and others safe. Get information for implementing COVID-19 procedures to prevent exposure, infection, and spreading." Below the image, there are three columns of content: "OSHA Requirements" (including Regulations, Enforcement Memoranda, Recording and Reporting, and Workers' Rights), "Guidance" (including "For Everyone" and "By Industry" sections), and "Highlights and Tools" (including "What's New" and "Additional Resources").

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

OSHA STANDARDS TOPICS HELP AND RESOURCES

Home / Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Workers and employers are seeking new ways to provide service while keeping their workforce and others safe. Get information for implementing COVID-19 procedures to prevent exposure, infection, and spreading.

OSHA Requirements

- Regulations
- Enforcement Memoranda
- Recording and Reporting
 - Reporting and Recording Enforcement Memoranda
 - Reporting and Recording FAQ
- Workers' Rights

Guidance

For Everyone

- NEW** Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace
 - Highlights (Spanish)
- Hazard Recognition
- Control and Prevention
- Preparing Workplaces (Spanish)
- Returning to Work (Spanish)

By Industry

By Topic

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Highlights and Tools

What's New

Additional Resources

- CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Page
- CDC Workplaces and Businesses Page

News and Updates

- News Releases
- Daily Enforcement Data
- Daily Whistleblower Data

- [OSHA.gov/coronavirus](https://www.osha-slc.gov/coronavirus) includes latest information and resources on protecting workers from exposure to COVID-19.