



# The Safety Connection

## San Diego



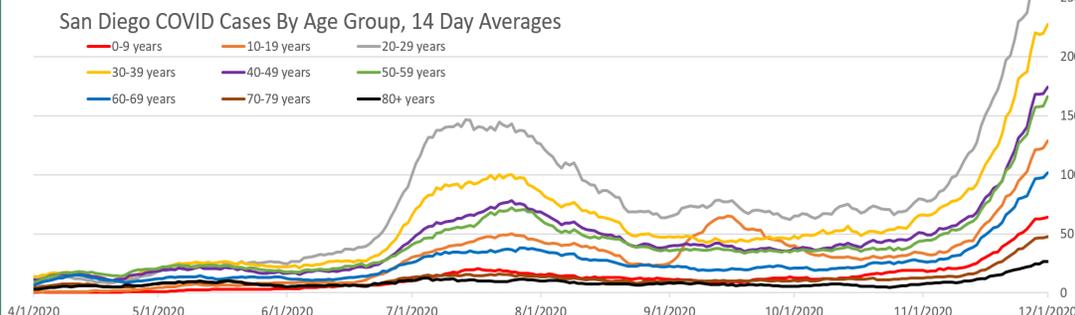
Scott Simerson

### The President’s Message — December, 2020

Welcome to December! About now, the Thanksgiving leftovers are running out, although, from a food safety standpoint, they should have been tossed out over a week ago. We are headed for quiet, physically-distanced holidays, if the COVID infection rates (and potential stay-at-home orders) of late November are an indicator. This is fine with me, I am looking forward to spending some quality time at home with my husband. I want to do a Harry Potter marathon; those movies really put me in the holiday mood! Add some popcorn and a fuzzy blanket on the couch, and I don’t care to ever leave the house!

I am perplexed as to why San Diego County is back in the purple tier. While I have been back in the office since May, I wear a mask any time I am out of the house, even when I am out for a walk, because you never know when someone is going to pop out of a doorway or from around a corner. I’ve not dined at an indoor restaurant since the Before Times, but we have supported our local establishments by ordering take-out. I’ve not hung out at a friend’s house, or been to the movies. I did capitulate twice in the last eight months when my hair became

*(see President’s Message, Page 2)*



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Thank you to all the sponsors of our 2020 Professional Development Conference!





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### *(President's Message, from Page 1)*

unmanageable and had my barber trim it back to compliance, but we were both masked up. My waking hours are spent either at home or work and I make occasional visits to the grocery store, Starbucks, Costco, Home Depot, or O'Reilly's. I realize I am not the general populace, but have my fellow San Diegans forgotten our predicament and gone back to living "normal" life? Who are these people? According to data on the San Diego County website, the age group with the highest positive case rate is currently those in their twenty's, followed by those in their thirty's. What is it about these age groups that make them more likely to get the virus? Generally, they are pretty healthy, and as I recall, there is a feeling of invincibility, especially for young men. Perhaps these people feel they are too young and healthy to catch the virus? Perhaps they are not following physical distancing protocols and not wearing masks around people they don't live with? I'm presuming these behaviors, but I don't have any evidence and I'm not willing to brave the packed shopping malls to gather data.

Over the summer, I was less fastidious about wiping down my groceries with bleach solution before bringing them in the house, but I still washed my hands and used hand sanitizer more than I ever have in my life. With the recent surge in daily cases and the onset of cooler temperatures, I am becoming concerned that we will soon see new daily records of cases and fatalities. It's time to start adhering to the protocols we adopted in March; I've cleared off the folding table in the garage to start cleaning groceries again. I do realize the virus is primarily transmitted through the air and not on surfaces, but wiping down groceries is not harmful and helps instill an element of control in my life. I'm considering

working from home again, this time with a more ergonomic set up than that afforded by my dining room table.

As we make our way through this winter and hopefully, out of this pandemic, our job is to keep our vigilance up, and ensure we are doing everything we can to keep ourselves safe. Only by protecting ourselves can we protect our loved ones, and protect our co-workers, employees, leaders, and by extension, the public. Keep your spirits up, find new ways to socialize during the holidays, maybe make some new traditions, and keep your guard up. Pray or think positively for what 2021 will bring, and let me know how you are doing. Be well, stay safe.

Thank you,

Scott

[president@sandiego.assp.org](mailto:president@sandiego.assp.org)

Scott Simerson

President

San Diego ASSP Chapter

San Diego County COVID-19 website:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status.html)

Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 website: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

P.S., Totally off-topic; I made this, and boy does it work! <https://www.instructables.com/Homemade-Cleaning-Putty/>





## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Committee met over GoTo Meeting on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brooks Carder, Cait Casey, Jo Curcio, Lee Donahue, David Ferguson, David Hiipakka, Chris Malicki, Scott Simerson, Isaac Szmuiłowicz, Dusty Walton-Bowen, and Wesley Williams were present.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **1. Review/Approve Minutes from October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ExCom Meeting:**

- a. Brooks moved to approve and Lee seconded the motion to approve the minutes for September 1st. Unanimous approval with no abstentions and no further discussion. Minutes approved.

#### **2. Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Report: Chris Malicki**

- a. 7 transactions – normal housekeeping; dues payment, and similar.
- b. Made a little money (\$536).
- c. Wells Fargo reached out to Chris to have a conversation where they may help adjust annual fees of about \$2500.
- d. Chris is also gathering information for an internet banking and will put together a summary of the information.
- e. 2021 -2022 looking for a live PDT with a budget and a 5% costs increase therefore we’d need a slight an increase in fees; Scott: budget is where it needs to be.
- f. Members may view a copy of the Treasurer’s Report upon request to the Chapter President.

#### **3. COMT Updates; Scott will perform, with continued input from EC**

- a. Scott is updating as appropriate, it is a challenge to even maintain.

#### **4. COMT Review; Nomination and Elections Committee names due December 1, 2020**

- a. Please provide nominees to Scott or Steve to assist in nominations.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **1. Promotion of Safety & Health Historical Society (SHHS)**

- a. Lee was not impressed. Scott will reach out to L.A. region to get perspective. Table for now and revisit next meeting.

#### **2. Mask update: Wesley (secondary discussion: give-away vs. charge)**

- a. Scott and Wesley met to evaluate masks—quality was good, but size was a little small.
- b. Sell vs. giveaway—
- c. San Diego Youth Services
- d. Alternate payments to consider as credit card fees vary from 5% - 25% Paypal/Venmo/alternate methods
- e. Wesley will reach out to Venmo

#### **3. Happy Hour: It Is Not Work!**

- a. Lee and Scott used Zoom, Brooks has participated too. Everyone is welcome to join. It’s an opportunity to relax for an hour and recapture some socialization. Fridays at 5:00 or whenever. Wesley has an account that has no time limit for meeting. Good time to share and vent.

#### **4. Breakfast Meeting Debrief: Fernand**

- a. Dan Hopwood has offered to help connect us with speakers or be a speaker
- b. Dusty will reach out to Dan to be a speaker for next week.
- c. Consider recording meetings
- d. Brooks—records all webinars, no issues, and nice to watch if people can’t make the meeting
- e. GoTo has an indication that the meeting is being recorded
- f. Scott—we should record it and post it
- g. Speaker must be aware and consent to recording

#### **5. Strategic Planning Meeting: Immediately following this meeting. A requirement of Society.**

- a. Expected to complete today.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **1. Delegates** — Nothing to report.

#### **2. Government Affairs** — Nothing to report.

#### **3. Job Line** — There are 26 positions available. Can improve by putting drop dead date on positions. National has theirs on one month, but David thinks 45 days is better. Searching LinkedIn and Indeed is a lot of work to search because some business only post there and not on their own website. Please let David know of any jobs you would like to see posted.

#### **4. Membership** — One new member – announced in the social media platforms as an introduction. We’ll do that going forward and get other new members announced this way.

#### **5. Newsletter** — Deadline is the 15th of each month. Please get stuff in on time so we can information posted ahead of time. Doesn’t seem like we’re getting feedback, maybe people aren’t reading them as much. Cait – newsletter is preserving the history of our Chapter and progression. Demonstrates continuity and consistency.

#### **6. Programs** — Absent—Scott says we need to build our speaker lists. David H. will send an email for another call for speakers.

#### **7. Public Affairs** — Pursuing members to participate in Listos California disaster preparedness. Red Cross is offering lunch and learn trainings for November and December. David H. will link up flyer.

(see ExCom Minutes, Page 4)



## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*(ExCom Minutes, from Page 3)*

- 8. Social Media** — Nothing to report.
- 9. Webmaster**—Absent—Nothing to report.
- 10. Succession Planning** — December had Festus Celebration and recognized longtime members. Acknowledgement in the Chapter and accomplishments. December Chapter SPY Award and longevity Awards. Scott is open to nominations for SPY 2020 – email him directly. Lee: Consider doing President’s Award in December with SPY Award for December. There are points for putting out the SPY Award for the COMT.

**11. Special Projects** — Nothing to report.

**12. PDC** — Wesley – Nothing to report.

**Last Call:** No further comments.

**Next Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020—GoTo Webinar—Fire Prevention—SDG&E Presenter

**Next PDT Planning Meeting:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020—GoTo Meeting

**Next EC Meeting:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020—GoTo Meeting

**Next PDT Date:** March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020—GoTo Meeting

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

### Government Affairs Committee:

*by Scott Simerson*

#### U.S. Department of Labor Issues Frequently Asked Question and Answer Confirming N95 Respirators Protect Against the Coronavirus

Oct 19, 2020

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a set of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) on how N95 respirators effectively protect wearers from coronavirus exposure.

OSHA is aware of incorrect claims stating that N95 respirators filter does not capture particles as small as the virus that causes the coronavirus. OSHA’s new FAQ explains why an N95 respirator is effective at protecting users from the virus.

Visit OSHA’s [COVID-19 webpage](#) for further information and resources about the coronavirus.

#### U.S. Department of Labor Issues Guidance Alerting Employers to Frequently Cited Standards Related to COVID-19 Inspections

November 7, 2020

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued [guidance](#) and an accompanying [one-pager](#) to help employers understand which standards are most frequently cited during coronavirus-related inspections. OSHA based these documents on data from citations issued, many of which were the result of complaints, referrals and fatalities in industries such as hospitals and healthcare, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, and meat/poultry processing

plants.

The one-pager and guidance document provide available resources that address the most frequently cited standards, including [Respiratory Protection](#), [Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses](#), [Personal Protective Equipment](#) and the [General Duty Clause](#). The one-pager provides examples of requirements employers must follow, such as:

- Provide a medical evaluation before a worker is fit-tested or uses a respirator.
- Establish, implement, and update a written respiratory protection program with required worksite-specific procedures.
- Train workers to safely use respirators and/or other PPE in the workplace, and retrain workers about changes in the workplace that might make previous training obsolete.
- Store respirators and other PPE properly in a way to protect them from damage, contamination, and, where applicable, deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.
- Keep required records of work-related fatalities, injuries, and illness.

OSHA is providing the guidance to help employers protect workers and increase compliance with OSHA requirements.

### Public Affairs Committee:

*by Isaac Szmilowicz*

The American Red Cross is providing Lunch and Learn Disaster Preparedness seminars in December—please see the flyer on [page 7](#) of this Newsletter for more information.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

**Membership Chair**

by Jo Curcio

*Welcome***Welcome to our newest member!**

David Pierce

**Job Line**

by David Ferguson, CSP, CEA, REPA

Looking for a new job? Local employers are looking for you! Visit our job-line at [sandiego.assp.org/current-openings/](http://sandiego.assp.org/current-openings/) to see current opportunities such as:

- Harper Construction—SSHO (2 positions)
- APTIM—[Site Safety Officer](#)
- Collins Aerospace—[Associate Director EH&S](#)
- Illumina—[Associate Director, EHS—AMR Region](#)
- Sumitomo Electric—[Environmental Health and Safety Specialist, San Marcos](#)
- SDSU—[Industrial Hygiene Manager](#)
- Sempra Energy—[Principal Auditor, EH&S](#)
- SunRun—[Safety Specialist](#)
- Semper Solaris—[Safety Manager](#)
- SMART Safety Group—[Safety Professional](#)
- Abbott—[Manager Facilities EHS](#)
- Dexcom—[EHS Manager, San Diego](#)
- Cal/OSHA—[Inspectors](#)
- Cal/OSHA—[Assistant Safety Engineer](#)

The [blue](#) links should take you directly to the posting, when available. Otherwise, see the [San Diego ASSP Job Listing](#) for full details and instructions on how to apply. Check out these and other great jobs today!

**Check us out on social media!**

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**Facebook**  
[American Society of Safety Professionals—San Diego ASSP Chapter](#)



**LinkedIn**  
[ASSPSanDiego](#)



**Instagram**  
[assp\\_san\\_diego](#)



Do you have an item of interest, safety-related event, sister-organization meeting, special accomplishment, or other newsworthy article that you would like shared with your fellow San Diego ASSP members? Submit it for consideration via e-mail no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month! Please e-mail all submissions along with your contact information, including name, e-mail address, and phone number, to [Newsletter@sandiego.assp.org](mailto:Newsletter@sandiego.assp.org).



## ASSP Career Center

The ASSP Career Center is a free comprehensive resource available to all ASSP Chapter members who are looking for a job or those who are employed and want to advance their safety careers. The Career Center’s Job Seeker Resource Center offers resume writing tips, tools to build your resume online, and a Resume Bank where you can post your resume anonymously for employers to view, except for your name and contact information. But that’s not all! You also get interview preparation and follow-up strategies, such as how to bring up and negotiate a salary.

The Job Board lets you to search for job postings throughout the US and internationally by applying filters that fit your criteria, and save them by keyword, location, industry, or job function. The Job Alert automated search sends new postings that meet your criteria right to you, instead of having to log in to search for new jobs. You also get help with career advancement to move your career forward or change industry sectors, including using social media for networking, how to work effectively with recruiters, how to give notice, and negotiating salary and benefits. And you have access to expert coaching!

Employers can post and manage job openings, search and manage job candidates, create a company profile, upload position templates, consult a Resume Bank, and much more. This is a great free resource designed with you in mind—visit the ASSP Career Center and Job Board at [jobs.assp.org/](http://jobs.assp.org/).

## Calendar of Special Events December 2020

### December 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Event</u>                          |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1-31         | Safe Toys & Gifts Month               |
| 1-31         | Holiday Season Drunk Driving Campaign |
| 1-31         | Worldwide Food Service Safety Month   |
| 6-12         | National Hand Washing Awareness Week  |
| 6-12         | National Influenza Vaccination Week   |
| 6-12         | Older Driver Safety Awareness Week    |

*Click on an event to learn more!*

Always find the latest San Diego ASSP events at [sandiego.assp.org/event!](http://sandiego.assp.org/event!)



**American Red Cross**  
Southern California Region

## Be Red Cross Ready



Get a Kit



Make a Plan



Be Informed

## End of 2020 Lunch and Learn Disaster Preparedness Presentations

Join the American Red Cross and learn how to Be Red Cross Ready. Be Red Cross Ready is a one-hour seminar on how to prepare households for local hazards. Our presenters will highlight general preparedness and four unique local hazards.

Join us to learn how you can Be Red Cross Ready!

### Wildfires

December 4, 2020 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

### Floods and Landslides

December 11, 2020 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

### Earthquakes

December 16, 2020 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

For additional preparedness information or to schedule a presentation, please contact:

Imperial and San Diego Counties:

Jaquez Harris at

[jaquez.harris2@redcross.org](mailto:jaquez.harris2@redcross.org)

(858) 357-6784

Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties:

Kimberly Aufrecht at

[kimberly.aufrecht2@redcross.org](mailto:kimberly.aufrecht2@redcross.org)

(714) 313-5440



# OSHA News Releases

U.S. Department of Labor  
OSHA, Office of Communications



**U.S. DOL’s OSHA Announces \$484,069 \$913,133 \$1,222,156 \$1,603,544 \$2,025,431 \$2,496,768 \$2,851,533 \$3,148,452 \$3,301,932 In Coronavirus Violations**

November 27, 2020

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic through Nov. 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited 244 establishments for violations relating to coronavirus, resulting in proposed penalties totaling \$3,301,932.

OSHA inspections have resulted in the agency citing employers for violations, including failures to:

- Implement a [written respiratory protection program](#);
- Provide a medical evaluation, respirator fit test, training on the proper

**ICYMI: U.S. Department of Labor Acts to Help American Workers And Employers During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

November 30, 2020

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor took a range of actions to aid American workers and employers as our nation combats the coronavirus pandemic.

Keeping America’s Workplaces Safe and Healthy:

- [U.S. Department of Labor’s OSHA Announces \\$3,301,932 In Coronavirus Violations](#) – Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic through Nov. 19, 2020, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued citations arising from 244 inspections for violations relating to

- use of a respirator and PPE;
- [Report](#) an injury, illness or fatality;
- Record an injury or illness on OSHA [recordkeeping forms](#); and
- Comply with the [General Duty Clause](#) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970

OSHA has withdrawn a citation issued on Oct. 23, 2020, to Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre, New York, (Inspection #1473958 with proposed penalty of \$9,639) after the employer provided evidence of a good faith attempt at complying with the standard in question.

OSHA has already announced citations relating to COVID-19 to 232 establishments, which can be found at [dol.gov/newsroom](#). OSHA provides more infor-

Check OSHA’s [COVID-19 webpage](#) at [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](#) frequently for updates. For further information about coronavirus, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

coronavirus, resulting in proposed penalties totaling \$3,301,932.

Defending Workers’ Rights to Paid Leave and Wages Earned:

- [Southern California Manufacturer Pays Back Wages, Restores Sick Leave To Dozens of Workers During Coronavirus Pandemic](#) – After an investigation by the Wage and Hour Division, a sheet metal parts manufacturer based in Canoga Park, California, will pay \$19,694 in back wages to 71 employees. The company wrongly paid workers only two-thirds of their regular rates when they took coronavirus-related sick leave, a violation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Announce Date	Establishments	Proposed Penalties
<a href="#">10/2/2020</a>	37	\$484,069
<a href="#">10/9/2020</a>	25	\$429,064
<a href="#">10/16/2020</a>	23	\$309,023
<a href="#">10/23/2020</a>	27	\$381,388
<a href="#">10/30/2020</a>	32	\$421,887
<a href="#">11/6/2020</a>	35	\$471,337
<a href="#">11/17/2020</a>	24	\$354,765
<a href="#">11/20/2020</a>	29	\$296,919
<a href="#">11/27/2020</a>	12	\$153,480
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>\$3,301,932</b>

*Click the links for details and weekly breakdowns*

information about individual citations at its [Establishment Search website](#), which it updates periodically.

A full list of what standards were cited for each establishment – and the inspection number – [are available here](#). An OSHA standards database can be found [here](#). ▪

**Media Contact:**

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Release Number: 20-2173-NAT

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Department of Labor is focused on protecting the safety and health of American workers, assisting our state partners as they deliver traditional unemployment and expanded unemployment benefits, ensuring Americans know their rights to new paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave, providing guidance and assistance to employers, and carrying out the mission of the Department. ▪

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at [www.dol.gov](#). The Department’s [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).



## U.S. Department of Labor Partners with McCarthy Building Companies To Promote Workplace Safety at Georgia Construction Site

November 20, 2020

**CARROLLTON, GA** — The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has signed a strategic partnership with McCarthy Building Companies to promote worker safety and health at the West Georgia Technical College-New Carroll County Campus project in Carrollton, Georgia. The Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute – Safety, Health and Environmental Services Group will also support this effort.

This partnership seeks to prevent injuries and exposure to hazards during con-

## U.S. Department of Labor Emphasizes Protecting Worker Safety and Pay During Holiday Season

November 20, 2020

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and its Wage and Hour Division (WHD) remind employers of their responsibility to protect worker safety and pay during the holiday season.

As the nation enters a unique holiday shopping season, employers must ensure that they train all workers to recognize and prevent job hazards, and incorporate safe work practices to prevent exposure to the coronavirus. At the same time, employers must also familiarize themselves and comply with federal rules governing the payment of wages for temporary or seasonal workers.

“Throughout the holiday season, all employees, including seasonal workers, should be trained not only on how to perform their jobs safely, but also on how to stay safe from the coronavirus,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and

struction of a new technical college with three buildings and a commercial truck driving range on a greenfield site. Under the agreement, the partners will focus on the use of personal protective equipment, heat illness prevention, fire protection and prevention, and preventing exposure to hazards related to falls, struck-by and caught-in/between objects, electric, hand and power tools, silica, lead and noise. The partners will also encourage contractors to develop

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Health Loren Sweatt. “Every worker deserves a safe and healthful workplace, whether they are packing boxes, stocking shelves, delivering products or selling merchandise.”

OSHA offers [resources](#) on holiday workplace safety for [warehousing](#), [delivery](#), and [retail](#) workers. Guidance is also available for protecting workers from exposure to the coronavirus in [retail](#) and [high customer-volume environments](#), [stockrooms and loading docks](#), and [package delivery](#). Additional information is available on [workers' rights](#), the protection of [temporary and seasonal workers](#), as well as safety for [young workers](#).

Temporary or seasonal employees hired to provide additional help have the right to a safe and healthful workplace, and to be paid for the work performed. With added seasonal hiring, employees unfamiliar with working in seasonal positions and employers unaccustomed to hiring part-time and/or seasonal employees may not be fully aware of the [rules](#) that regulate such work.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

and implement safety and health programs and provide related training to employees, employers and supervisors.

OSHA's [Strategic Partnership Program](#) works with employers, employees, professional and trade associations, labor organizations and other interested stakeholders to establish specific goals, strategies and performance measures to improve worker safety and health. ▀

### Media Contact:

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[lucero.eric.r@dol.gov](mailto:lucero.eric.r@dol.gov)

Release Number: 20-2086-ATL (498)

“While retail employees work hard during the holiday season to serve shoppers and help the economy thrive, they have bills to pay. We need to ensure workers are paid their rightful wages,” said Wage and Hour Division Administrator Cheryl Stanton. “With more temporary and part-time workers employed during the holidays, it's important that we inform these workers and their employers about rules concerning work hours, wages and employment conditions, including their rights to [paid sick leave](#) under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.”

WHD enforces federal minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping and child labor requirements of the [Fair Labor Standards Act](#) (FLSA). Common holiday season labor violations include failing to pay salespeople and cashiers for time spent prepping or closing out a register; requiring stock room and warehouse personnel to work through breaks without compensation; and not providing overtime pay to employees working more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Learn more by viewing [WHD's guide for Seasonal Employment](#). ▀



## Update on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response

### COVID-19 Update

As part of NIOSH's efforts to keep our stakeholders up to date on the CDC and NIOSH COVID-19 response, here is a summary of new information available:

- A new [scientific brief](#) highlights evidence that cloth masks help to block virus-carrying respiratory droplets from reaching others when the wearer has COVID-19. Cloth masks can also help block the amount of virus-carrying droplets that a mask wearer inhales if someone nearby is infected.
- The [workplaces and businesses webpage](#) was updated to provide one central location for all work-related

COVID-19 resources.

- A new [infographic](#) provides tips to ensure that employers and employees are prepared to assist when a COVID-19 case is identified in the workplace. The infographic is a part of the recommendations provided for [COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracking in Non-Healthcare Workplaces: Information for Employers](#).
- The [critical infrastructure sector response planning webpage](#) as updated to reflect new scientific evidence, evolving epidemiology, and the need to simplify the assessment of risk.
- New school resources are also available:

- The [Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools toolkit](#) is now available to aid school administrators as they consider how to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, teachers, other school staff, families, and communities and prepare for educating students.
- The [school health personnel webpage](#) provides information and resources to help school nurses and other healthcare personnel perform these new roles and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources for self-care are also included.

## CDC Awards \$1.5 Million for Research in Robotic Technology to Reduce Exposures to Workplace Hazards

CDC has awarded \$1.5 million over 3 years to the University of Illinois at Chicago and Worcester Polytechnic Institute to fund projects aimed at reducing workers' exposures to hazards through the development and use of collaborative robots, or co-

## Outside NIOSH: New Survey Uncovers Construction Safety

Commercial construction companies often must demonstrate safety performance before bidding for business contracts. Safety performance traditionally includes injury records, workers' compensation claims, and future risk. However, these indicators are limited in their ability to predict future safety.

Policies, programs, and practices for workplace safety and health are considered more accurate indicators, because they are the underlying causes of injury and illness. These so-called leading indicators now are used more frequently for safety surveys to prequalify for contract bidding, but the accuracy of these surveys is unproven.

To address this issue, the NIOSH-funded construction center CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training supported a study by researchers at Northeastern University in Boston. The scientists developed and tested a new 63-item survey of construction safety policies, programs, and practices.

As part of a larger research project, 43 subcontractor managers on 24 construction sites in the Boston-metro area completed the

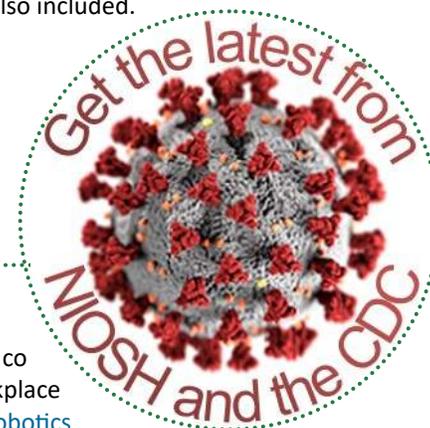
robots. NIOSH partnered with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund co-robot studies in the workplace through NSF's [National Robotics Initiative 2.0](#). The Initiative supports U.S. research that will accelerate this emerging robotic technology that complements, not replaces, human workers. Read the full [press release](#).

new survey. At the same time, researchers administered separate surveys focused on safety climate and injury rates to 1,426 workers at the same sites and then compared the results. The study occurred between January 2017 and August 2018.

Researchers found that higher survey scores of the leading indicators were linked to worksites with greater safety climate and lower injury rates. Construction sites and their projects appeared more critical in increasing safety than specific subcontracting companies. With each 1-point increase in the new survey's score, worksite safety climate and subcontractor safety climate rose. These findings highlight the overall importance of construction worksites for worker safety and health and of improving safety performance surveys for prequalification. The study appeared in the [American Journal of Industrial Medicine](#).

More information is available:

- [Assessing Leading Indicators of Safety Performance Through an Organizational Survey](#)
- [Development and Evaluation of Metrics for Contractor Pre-Qualifications](#)
- [NIOSH National Center for Construction Safety and Health Research and Translation](#)





## HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

### You’ve broken a fluorescent lightbulb. Now what?

October 25, 2020

Use of compact fluorescent lightbulbs can save money, conserve energy, reduce waste and lower greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. However, CFLs contain mercury – a potent neurotoxin that, in small amounts, can cause serious health problems. At room temperature, mercury is a liquid and can readily evaporate into the air.

Chronic low-dose exposure can permanently damage the nervous system and ongoing exposure can cause tremors, anxiety and memory loss, CDPH says.

So, what should you do to minimize your exposure if a CFL breaks? EPA recom-

mends following these steps:

#### Before cleanup:

- Air out the room for five to 10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air conditioning system.
- Collect materials needed to clean up the broken bulb: stiff paper or cardboard, sticky tape, damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces), and a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag.

#### During cleanup:

- Don’t vacuum. Doing so could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass

and visible powder.

- Place materials in a sealable container.

#### After cleanup:

- Place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area.
- If allowed to do so (check with your local government), dispose of the materials with your trash.

Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating/air conditioning system shut off for several hours, if possible.

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This article originally appeared in *Safety+Health* on October 25<sup>th</sup>.



- Ensure restroom exhaust fans are fully operational, remain on and function at maximum capacity.
- Encourage workers to stay home if they’re sick and report all safety and health concerns.

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This article originally appeared in *Safety+Health* on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### COVID-19 pandemic: OSHA safety alert focuses on workplace ventilation

November 10, 2020

**Washington** — Aimed at ensuring proper ventilation in indoor workplaces amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a new [OSHA safety alert](#) lists measures employers and building managers should take.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning professionals can help optimize building ventilation and keep HVAC systems properly maintained. Steps to consider include increasing an HVAC system’s outdoor air intake and ensuring exhaust air isn’t being pulled back into the building. Opening windows or other sources of fresh air also is recommended, when possible and safe.

Other tips:

- Make sure all HVAC systems are fully functional, especially those that have been shut down or operating at reduced capacity during the pandemic.
- Remove or redirect personal fans to prevent air blowing from one worker to another.
- Consider using a high-efficiency particulate air fan/filtration system to increase clean air, particularly in high-risk areas.
- Use HVAC system filters with a [Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value](#) of 13 or higher, where feasible.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., N95 respirators, eye protection and disposable gloves) when changing HVAC filters.

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...This article originally appeared in *Safety+Health* on October 15<sup>th</sup>.  
[Click here](#) to read the full article.

### CDC, training center warn of potential Legionella bacteria in low- or no-occupancy workplaces

excerpt from October 15, 2020

**Atlanta** — Workplace water systems in facilities that have had reduced occupancy or have been unoccupied during the COVID-19 pandemic are at increased risk for bacterial growth such as *Legionella*,

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a Canadian safety and health training center are warning employers and building managers.

The Workers Health and Safety Center – designated by the Canadian government as Ontario’s health and safety training center – in August warned of *Legionella* bacteria in government buildings or “any building that goes more



## HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

### Contact Tracing—‘An important thing for employers to do’

excerpt from October 25, 2020

During a recent construction project, workers wore armbands connected to an electronic node network situated across the jobsite.

Project supervisors from the engineering and construction firm Jacobs implemented the technology as a form of contact trac-

ing – a disease control measure with long-standing roots in public health practice that has emerged as a new concept for many employers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact tracing is used to identify, support and monitor individuals potentially exposed to an infected person. If a worker on the project had tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to someone who had, in this instance, a report from

the device network would have alerted the project manager about the recent job path of the affected worker and determined which colleagues were potentially exposed...

“They like it and feel a bit of relief associated with...”

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...This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on October 25<sup>th</sup>.  
[Click here](#) to read the full article.

### Are remote workers ready to return to the workplace? Survey explores

Excerpt from October 20, 2020

**New York** — Fewer than 3 out of 10 employees who are working remotely amid the COVID-19 pandemic expect to return to their physical workplace by the end of the year, and some groups feel more pressure than others to do so, results of a recent survey suggest.

From Sept. 16 to 25, nonprofit think tank

The Conference Board conducted an online survey of more than 1,100 U.S. workers across numerous industries to gain an understanding of employee readiness to return to the workplace during the pandemic. More than a quarter (28%) of the respondents indicated they expect to return to their workplace by Jan. 1, while 38% expect to do so in the new year or beyond. Only 7% expect to return after a vaccine is made widely available.

Most of the workers feel “moderately comfortable” (39%) or “very comforta-

ble” (17%) about returning to the workplace, while 31% aren’t comfortable with the prospect of returning....

When it comes to feeling pressure to return to the workplace, more women (17%) responded affirmatively than men (10%). Women were also more likely to express concern of contracting COVID-19 (67% vs. 61%). Meanwhile, 20% of...

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...This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on October 30<sup>th</sup>.  
[Click here](#) to read the full article.

### UK survey explores worker burnout during COVID-19 pandemic

October 20, 2020

**Lowell, MA**—London — Employee burnout is most likely to occur at age 32, according to the results of a recent survey out of the United Kingdom.

On behalf of The Office Group, a provider of flexible design-led workspaces, public relations company 72Point surveyed a nationally representative cohort of 2,000 adult workers about job-related factors that cause burnout – especially during the country’s lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was conducted between Aug. 27 and Sept. 3.

Among millennials, the top three causes of burnout are working longer hours (59%), inability to separate work and personal life (42%), and an uncertain job market (33%), according to a Sept. 21 press release from TOG. Among workers 50 and older, 48%

reported not being able to take “a proper break” since the lockdown began.

Other findings:

- 51% of respondents said they’re working outside of their contracted hours, with the average worker putting in an extra 59 hours over the previous five months.
- 32% said the lockdown has pushed them closer to burnout.
- 27% indicated that a lack of social interaction was making the time especially difficult.

Despite their added stress during this time, 69% of the workers said their employer isn’t offering ways to improve their work-life balance or well-being. To fight burnout, 22% of the respondents want their employers to offer wellness and mindfulness classes.

Tips from TOG to help prevent burnout

and spot the signs of heightened stress and exhaustion at work include:

- Make clear distinctions between day and nighttime routines.
- Set aside “must-dos” for the day and write them down.

“With almost a third of people saying lockdown has brought them closer to burnout, there is no question the pandemic has greatly impacted the nation’s collective mental health,” Sarah Vohra, a psychiatrist and mental health and wellness expert, said in the release. “Companies must put defenses in place and guard against elements which might cause stress and anxiety, and looking forward, they must make robust changes to ensure employees are protected, particularly during times of uncertainty.”

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...This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

[Safety+Health](#) is the official magazine of the National Safety Council. You can sign up for free monthly newsletters [here](#).



Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Hwy  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



US Health & Human Services  
Food & Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20993  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)



**NHTSA**  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

## FEATURED SAFETY RECALLS

### Important: CPSC Recall Remedy Notice Due to COVID-19

Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding COVID-19, some of the remedies identified in recall press releases may not be available at this time. Consumers should check with recalling firms for further details. *It is important to remember that CPSC and recalling firms urge consumers not to use recalled products.*

11/4: Coulter Ventures Recalls Rogue Home Timers Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/JPQBYq](https://is.gd/JPQBYq)

11/4: Walker Edison Recalls Chests Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards: [is.gd/oDxg0o](https://is.gd/oDxg0o)

11/4: Target Recalls Toddler Boots Due to Choking Hazard: [is.gd/jjvJQb](https://is.gd/jjvJQb)

11/4: Alliance Outdoor Products Recalls Climbing Treestands Due to Fall Hazard: [is.gd/zXjsjw](https://is.gd/zXjsjw)

11/4: YETI Recalls Rambler Travel Mugs with Stronghold Lid Due to Injury and Burn Hazards: [is.gd/0G6SOK](https://is.gd/0G6SOK)

11/4: Continental and General Brand Tires: Tire Carcass May Break Causing Sudden Air Loss: [is.gd/wyoaQl](https://is.gd/wyoaQl) and [is.gd/sT7t1W](https://is.gd/sT7t1W)

11/10: Kohl's Recalls Three-Wick SONOMA Goods For Life Branded Candles Due to Fire and Burn Hazards: [is.gd/t6vUj9](https://is.gd/t6vUj9)

11/10: Ring Recalls Video Doorbells (2nd Generation) Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/MC337a](https://is.gd/MC337a)

11/10: Quality Bicycle Products Recalls Salsa Cycles Cutthroat Bicycles Due To Injury Hazard: [is.gd/lHkip4](https://is.gd/lHkip4)

11/10: Arena North America Recalls Swim Snorkels Due to Choking Hazard: [is.gd/tyXeLZ](https://is.gd/tyXeLZ)

11/10: Fire Pit Tables Sold Exclusively at Big Lots Recalled Due to Fire Hazard; Manufactured by Sunjoy: [is.gd/3pNftn](https://is.gd/3pNftn)

11/10: Bolek's Craft Supplies Recalls Wintergreen Essential Oil Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning: [is.gd/duH3q3](https://is.gd/duH3q3)

11/12: Zinus Recalls Bunk Beds Due Fall and Injury Hazards: [is.gd/WjjOW6](https://is.gd/WjjOW6)

11/12: Kanan Enterprises Conducts Voluntary Recall of ALDI Southern Grove On the Go Sweet & Salty Trail Mix Due to Undeclared Almonds: [is.gd/UFqwDo](https://is.gd/UFqwDo)

11/12: InvoSpa Recalls Heated Blankets Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Sold Exclusively at Amazon.com: [is.gd/h1GFxa](https://is.gd/h1GFxa)

11/16: Toyota 4Runner, Avalon, Camry, Corolla, Corolla Hatchback, Highlander, Land Cruiser, RAV4, Sequoia, Sienna, Tacoma, Tundra and Lexus ES350, GS200T, GS300, GS350, GX460, IS200T, IS300, IS350, LC500, LC500H, LS500, LS500H, LX570, NX300, RC200T, RC300, RC350, RX350, RX350L, UX200: Fuel Pump May Fail: [is.gd/SMdkqC](https://is.gd/SMdkqC)

11/17: Fresh Express Recalls Limited Quantity of Expired Fresh Express Kit Caesar Supreme Due to Potential Health Risk: [is.gd/z49bwk](https://is.gd/z49bwk)

11/19: Polaris Recalls RZR Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles Due to Injury Hazard: [is.gd/yporeA](https://is.gd/yporeA)

11/23: Allergy Alert Issued for Undeclared Shrimp in Mislabeled Popcorn Chicken from 26 Whole Foods Market Stores: [is.gd/LQA6Sf](https://is.gd/LQA6Sf)

11/23: Ford Edge, Explorer, and Taurus: Link Shaft Brackets May Fracture: [is.gd/7z4ccC](https://is.gd/7z4ccC)

11/24: Crock-Pot 6-Quart Express Crock Multi-Cookers Recalled by Sunbeam Products Due to Burn Hazard: [is.gd/1JsYCi](https://is.gd/1JsYCi)

11/24: Any Volume Recalls Bicycle Helmets Due to Risk of Head Injury; Sold Exclusively on ebay.com: [is.gd/WAq35R](https://is.gd/WAq35R)

11/25: Eco Baby Spoons and Forks, Eco Feeding Spoons, and Eco Placemat Feeding Sets Recalled Due to Choking Hazard; Made by Herobility: [is.gd/XczCn0](https://is.gd/XczCn0)

11/25: Lidl US Recalls Powerfix Steel Shelving Units Due To Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards: [is.gd/udePEX](https://is.gd/udePEX)

11/25: RH Recalls Wine Barrel Chandeliers Due to Injury Hazard: [is.gd/E6sqK5](https://is.gd/E6sqK5)

11/25: Towsleys Recalls 3-in-1 Qi Wireless Chargers, Power Banks and Travel Chargers Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/QT4ZUG](https://is.gd/QT4ZUG)

11/25: Santa Cruz Bicycles Recalls Bicycles with Aluminum Frames Due to Fall Risk: [is.gd/9zrcBn](https://is.gd/9zrcBn)

*Note: Agency logos are used here solely for identification and familiarity purposes, and do not constitute an endorsement by those agencies.*





## HELPFUL LINKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

American Industrial Hygiene Association

[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

American Red Cross

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

American Society of Safety Professionals Main Website

[www.assp.org](http://www.assp.org)

ASSP Center for Safety and Health Sustainability

[www.centershhs.org](http://www.centershhs.org)

ASSP Learning Library

[www.safetybok.org](http://www.safetybok.org)

ASSP Risk Assessment Institute

[www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute](http://www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute)

Cal/OSHA

California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

Electronic Library of Construction Occupational Safety & Health

[www.elcosh.org/index.php](http://www.elcosh.org/index.php)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

FEMA “Be Ready” Website

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

Food and Drug Administration

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)

[www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov)

National Institute of Health Sciences (NIH)

[www.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.niehs.nih.gov)

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

[www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)

[www.cdc.gov/nora](http://www.cdc.gov/nora)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

OSHA Silica Fact Sheets

[www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=Controlling+Silica+Dust+in+Construction+&pSearch=](http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=Controlling+Silica+Dust+in+Construction+&pSearch=)

OSHA Silica Frequently Asked Questions

[www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/generalindustry\\_info\\_silica.html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/generalindustry_info_silica.html)

San Diego ASSP Website

[sandiego.assp.org](http://sandiego.assp.org)

US Chemical Safety Board (CSB)

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov)

### The COVID Corner

#### City of San Diego

[www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus)

Status of City Services: [www.sandiego.gov/status](http://www.sandiego.gov/status)

#### County of San Diego

[www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus)

211 San Diego: [211sandiego.org](http://211sandiego.org)

Sheriff's Department: [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net)

Office of Education: [covid-19.sdcoe.net](http://covid-19.sdcoe.net)

#### State of California

[covid19.ca.gov](http://covid19.ca.gov)

Employment Development Department: [www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)

Cal/OSHA: [www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html)

Department of Public Health: [cdph.ca.gov/covid19](http://cdph.ca.gov/covid19)

#### Federal Government

[www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

The White House: [www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america)

OSHA: [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](http://www.osha.gov/coronavirus)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV)

#### Global/Nongovernmental Resources

ASSP: [www.assp.org/covid-19](http://www.assp.org/covid-19)

Johns Hopkins: [coronavirus.jhu.edu](http://coronavirus.jhu.edu)

United Nations: [www.un.org/en/coronavirus](http://www.un.org/en/coronavirus)

World Health Organization (WHO):

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)

AIHA Back to Work Safely: [www.backtoworksafely.org](http://www.backtoworksafely.org)