



# The Safety Connection

## San Diego

### The President's Message — April, 2021

Welcome to April 2021!

I would like to welcome our newest members; Alfonso Yepiz, Anthony Leyva, Daniel Garay, Hortencia Yescas, Juan Mellado, Lilly Sabet, Marisa Yescas, Rogelio Soto, Seth Ellebracht, Angel Taylor, Jeremiah Dube, Joshua Hughes, Luis D'Carpio, Ryan Hilliard, Sean Dugdale, Shawn Baker, and Wesley Tart all joined in February and March!

While I have not had the honor of meeting (most of) them in person, they are fellow safety professionals and considering the reputations of the members I do know, I am glad to have them! Please make them feel welcome when you see them in a meeting (virtual for now)!

Speaking of a timeframe for in-person

Hello  
my name is

New

To everyone who recently joined us—**WELCOME!**

meetings, ASSP National President Deborah Roy recently wrote in her monthly column that given the current rate of immunizations and absent any surges in infection, she predicts we may be able to start socializing locally this summer, and may reach a level of herd immunity by this fall. She invites us to view the ASSP COVID-19 Resources web page (<http://assp.us/COVID>) to access a recent webinar in which vaccines, herd immunity, return-to-work strategies and recurring local outbreaks are discussed. Sounds good to me, and we'll be sure to let you know through this newsletter and emails when we are able to have a break-fast meeting at ADM Baker again!

I hope you were in attendance at our Professional Development Training event last month; I was very pleased with how it rolled out. Having been our first attempt at hosting a virtual event, we quelled our collective apprehension by doing our home-

(see *President's Message*, Page 2)



Scott Simerson

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TO JUMP TO THAT PAGE!**

**Thank you to all the sponsors of our 2021 Professional Development Training!**



Keynote Sponsor



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# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



**"Providing Leadership & Direction to  
the Safety Professional since 1911"**

## 2020 - 2021 Officers

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

work through attendance of events at other chapters and regions, taking copious notes about what worked and what could have been done better. We chose to use the Region-1-provided Go-ToWebinar platform because we were used to it, at least as much as you can be when they keep updating it every other week. I really felt for Lee Donahue, our "man behind the curtain" who kept the magic working; he would have to re-learn the controls after an update, which typically seemed to happen just before a meeting! I want to again thank the members of the committee that conceived of this event and worked tirelessly to make it happen for you. Please show your appreciation to Wesley Williams, Teresa Bonilla, Cait Casey, Lee Donahue, David Hiipakka, Fernand Kuhr, Chris Malicki, Suzanne May, Isaac Szmilowicz and Dusty Walton-Bowen, almost all of whom are also part of our chapter Executive Committee. An event like this comes together only with input and guidance from the majority of the Executive Committee, and I also want to thank Brooks Carder, Jo Curcio, David Ferguson, Claire Wilson, and Steve Workman for their help.

You may have heard that ASSP Safety

2021 is being planned as a hybrid event to be held in September, at an as-yet undisclosed location [Editor's note: ASSP has since announced the event will be held in Austin, Texas]. As I mentioned earlier, Deb Roy anticipates building herd immunity by fall, which means **Safety 2021** will not be accompanied by the usual "extra" activities like the House of Delegates meeting, awards ceremonies, luncheons, receptions, or retreats. There will be exhibitors and of course, speakers, and while technical details have not been shared, I envision live-streaming of the seminars, and SME's answering questions on chat. This is going to be interesting, so look for the ASSP **Safety 2021 website** which should be launched by the time you read this [<https://safety.assp.org>].

While you will certainly be able to earn CEU's at Safety 2021, did you know ASSP also offers flexible learning options using their own safety library and expanding benefits up to 20% discounts on ANSI/ASSP Standards and technical publications? Check out the On-Demand-Annual-Pass at the ASSP.org website, where you can subscribe to a plan that fits your educational needs. Starting at \$49 per month for the Essential level,

*(see President's Message, Page 3)*

Safety 2021 will be a hybrid event in Austin, Texas and online!

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



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## *(President's Message, from Page 2)*

you can take on-demand courses and seminars to earn up to 12 CEU per year. Or, opt for the Professional level for \$149/month for up to 30 CEU through additional courses with discounted prices. Or, get your company involved and go big with the Enterprise level and you and your coworkers can earn up to 30 CEU, improving the not only the workforce but ultimately, the bottom line.

I've mentioned before that just getting involved in your local chapter and taking on a small (or big) role is a great way to build your leadership skills, networking, and contacts, while improving your resume. We have the perfect role for you, all you have to do is ask. If I can answer any questions or concerns you have about any role or position, please send me an email and I'll be glad to talk with you.

Stay Safe,

– Scott

Scott Simerson, President, San Diego ASSP Chapter  
[president@sandiego.assp.org](mailto:president@sandiego.assp.org)

**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; Did you color eggs for Easter? Have you ever wondered how many eggs are produced in the U.S. every year? According to the interwebs, each of the 375.8 million laying birds in the United States in 2017 produced an average of 281 eggs a year, for a total of 105,599,800,000 incredible edible eggs! (NASS 2018). That comes out to about 321 eggs per person (assuming U.S. population of 328,200,000). Sometimes I get lost down the rabbit hole of random trivia (see that?), which is nothing compared to the time-suck of Facebook, Twitter, Insta (I'm hip!) and TikTok (which I'm too old for). Whatever happened to just reading a book?



(We're not  
cool enough  
for TikTok)

## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Committee met over GoTo Meeting on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cait Casey, Jo Curcio, Lee Donahue, David Ferguson, David Hiipakka, Fernand Kuhr, Scott Simerson, Isaac Szmuiłowicz, Dusty Walton-Bowen, Wesley Williams were present.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **1. Review/Approve Minutes from February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 ExCom Meeting:**

- Scott motioned to approve the February minutes. Lee and Wesley seconded (bad connection). All ayes, no nays, no abstentions, no other comments. Minutes approved.

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

- Report emailed 3/1/2021.
- Monies gained from dues, PDC, and interest.

#### **3. COMT Updates**

- Scott will continue to perform, with input from EC. Please provide information to Scott or Wesley.

#### **4. Nomination and Elections Committee: Steve Workman**

- President-Elect: No nominations yet.
- Secretary: Maria Amansec, Naval Base Coronado, Member for 1 year in June 2021.
- Delegate(s): Chris Malicki, Scott Simerson or Wesley Williams...Scott hands off to Wesley. Scott - Delegate workload isn't very much. Scott doesn't see workload a prob-

lem for Wesley. Wesley accepts delegate.

- Treasurer: Chris will stay on if he can also be a delegate.
- Programs: Claire Wilson.
- Government Affairs: No nominations yet – Scott talked with Ally, maybe she will be interested. Information is received from Regional leader Sam and also governmental distribution list. David H. can do another email blast for President-Elect and government affairs – will go out 3/3.
- Proposed timeline: Scott: publish names at April Meeting, voting 25-31 May, winners announced June meeting. We are not physically meeting; names have to be published 30 days before voting. Members have 7 days to respond in the vote. Dusty, Wesley, & Lee concur. Lee: we can also use this during PDC.

#### **5. Posthumous 50 Year Safety Award for John Tolley**

- Chris sent some suggestions. Scott liked the wooden plaque with clock. Script option: "Congratulations & Thank you for 50 years of dedicated service to the safety community". Scott to finish and wrap up.

### NEW BUSINESS (\*Asterisk items require voting for approval.)

#### **1. Update By-Laws**

- Amendment for the outgoing EC to mentor the incoming EC to ensure continuity. Viability? If yes, add to Article 6; 6.6.1? – Provide one on one training through whatever

(see ExCom Minutes, Page 4)





## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### *(ExCom Minutes, from Page 3)*

format (in-person or virtual) for initial training. Be available as needed for consultation. Lee – resources we use should be in a central location and integrate long term repository so access is available should Lee get hit by a bus. [Editor's note: missed opportunity to tell Lee not to get hit by a bus, i.e. "stop playing in traffic."]

- a. Create "Past-President's Panel"; form as committee or add to Article 4 – Organization? Scott is thinking 3-4 on a panel, volunteer position, as long as they want to participate. The role is for them to be available to the president or president-elect to reach out to them as a resources and provide guidance.
- b. Remove references to North County Section: Article 9.1.1. Add bylaw revisions to the May vote – This Article needs to come out.
- c. Scott and Dusty will prepare amendments to bylaws for review and voting by June.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Delegates** — Absent—Nothing to report.
2. **Government Affairs** — Nothing to report.
3. **Job Line** — There are 23 openings on the job line. It is going well, but there has been another upgrade and maintenance on the Society website and its posing a challenge. David H's email was kicked back. Is there a membership list with contact phone numbers and emails where David could reach out as needed. Scott – yes there is a way to get to our members and its open to anyone who is an EC Member. Scott will email David F. the info.
4. **Membership** — February lost 9 members and gained 4. New member introduction on social media for one of the members.
5. **Newsletter** — Few things April – Third Hand Smoke has not provided info for newsletter because they missed the deadline. Lee - Safety advice column. Wesley/Jo – yes. Dusty – consider legal implications. Lee – Disclaimer needed and will look into it more. Isaac – maybe running it through Cal-OSHA Consultation. Lee will come back next

month with more details. 15th of the month – need to have all input in by that time.

6. **Programs** — Nothing to report. Glad to support Claire step into the position. Was maintain an excel spreadsheet and will send to Dusty. April/May/June speakers filled. July is officer installation.
7. **Public Affairs** — March is Red Cross month and their new program is Raise the Bar—disaster training and workshops. Today is a lunch and learn for Covid-19 and Friday is General Preparedness. Melissa thanked ASSP for the nice face coverings and volunteers are using them. No requests for Listos California. Isaac makes calls every weekend for several hours. Contact Isaac if you are interested.
8. **Social Media** — Pushing PDT, Red Cross, and officer needs.
9. **Webmaster**—Absent—Nothing to report.
10. **Succession Planning** — Nothing to report.
11. **Special Projects** — Nothing to report.
12. **PDC/PDT** — PDT meeting subsequent to EC meeting today.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

- March 31, 2021 Financial Year End
- April 16, 2021 Regional Operations Committee (virtual)
- May 31, 2021 Financial Report uploaded to COMT (Bonus May 15, 2021)
- June 2021 Review By-Laws with incoming EC Team, submit to RVP before voting
- June 30, 2021 COMT closed for 2020-2021 Chapter Year

**Last Call:** None

**Next EC Meeting:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021—GoTo Meeting

**Next Monthly Meeting:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021—GoTo Webinar

**Next PDT Planning Meeting:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021—GoTo Meeting

**Next PDT Date:** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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).



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

### Government Affairs Committee:

by Scott Simerson

#### US Department of Labor's OSHA issues proposed rule to update hazard communication standard

February 5, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today issued a proposed rule to update the agency's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to align with the seventh revision of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

OSHA expects the HCS update will increase worker protections, and reduce the incidence of chemical-related occupational illnesses and injuries by further improving the information on the labels and Safety Data Sheets for hazardous chemicals. Proposed modifications will also address issues since implementation of the 2012 standard, and improve alignment with other federal agencies and Canada.

Individuals may submit comments identified by Docket No. OSHA-2019-0001, electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Read the Federal Register notice for details. The deadline for submitting comments is April 19, 2021.

OSHA has preliminarily determined that the proposed modifications would enhance the effectiveness of the standard by improving dissemination of hazard information so employees are more appropriately apprised of exposure to chemical hazards in the workplace.

Established in 1983, the Hazard Communication Standard provides a standardized approach to workplace hazard communications associated with exposure to hazardous chemicals. OSHA updated the standard in 2012 to align with the third revision of the United Nations' GHS to provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information.

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.

#### H.R. 1180: To amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to clarify when the time period for the issuance of citations under such Act begins and to require a rule to clarify that an employer's duty to make and maintain accurate records of work-related injuries and illnesses is an ongoing obligation.

February 18, 2021

This bill is in the first stage of the legislative process and the text of it is not available yet. It was introduced into Congress on February 18, 2021. It will typically be considered by committee next before it is possibly sent on to the House or Senate as a whole.

#### H.R. 1195: Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act

February 22, 2021

A BILL to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

#### US Department of Labor encourages industry employers, stakeholders to join OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction

March 1, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced today that it has scheduled the eighth annual National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction for May 3-7, 2021. OSHA encourages construction employers and other stakeholders to join the event to promote awareness and training to address one of the industry's most serious dangers.

“Workers suffer serious and fatal injuries from falls and have a devastating impact on families and businesses,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health James Frederick. “This important collaboration with the construction industry encourages employers to learn how to better control fall-related hazards and improve their safety and health programs.”

OSHA developed the fall prevention campaign, as part of the national safety stand-down and in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Occupational Research Agenda, and The Center for Construction Research and Training. Since 2014, this collaboration has helped train nearly 10 million workers on fall prevention.

OSHA encourages everyone to use #StandDown4Safety to promote the event on social media, and to share feedback after their events and obtain a personalized certificate of participation.

OSHA's Fall Prevention Stand-Down webpage offers a wide range of compliance resources in many languages, including Spanish, Polish, Russian and Portuguese.

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.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

### *Membership Chair*

by Jo Curcio

#### **Welcome to our newest members!**

Shawn Baker  
Luis D'Carpio  
Jeremiah Dubé  
Sean Dugdale  
Shelley Ford  
Ryan Hilliard

Joshua Hughes  
Nelly Meraz  
Dwayne Smith  
Wesley Tart  
Angel Taylor

### *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:

- Utility—[Site Safety Manager](#)
- ACT Enviro—[EHS Consultant](#)
- Abbott—[EHS Specialist](#)
- Otay Water District—[Safety & Security Specialist](#)
- Wood—[Health, Safety, Environmental Manager](#)
- Baker Electric—[Corporate Safety Manager](#)
- Jingoli—[Safety Specialist II](#)
- Waxie—[Director Environmental, Health, & Safety](#)
- Level 10 Construction—[Safety Manager](#)
- Flatiron—[Project Safety Manager](#)
- Dexcom—[Sr. EHS Data Analyst](#)
- Grifols—[EH&S Manager](#)
- Qualcomm—[EHS Engineer](#)
- Orange County—[Senior Safety Specialist](#)
- Semper Solaris—[Solar Safety Manager and Solar Safety Coordinator](#)
- Kasai Consulting—[EHS Consultant/Industrial Hygienist](#)
- Henkels & McCoy—[Safety Specialist III](#)
- Cal/OSHA—[Inspectors](#)

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!*



**Twitter**  
[@AsspSan](#)



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



**LinkedIn**  
[ASSPSanDiego](#)



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





## 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/](https://jobs.assp.org/).

## April 2021

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	

## Calendar of Special Events April 2021

Dates	Event
March	National Procrastination Week (we only just got around to this one)
1-30	Distracted Driving Awareness Month
1-30	National Youth Sports Safety Month
1-30	Occupational Therapy Month
1-30	Stress Awareness Month
4-10	National Window Safety Week
5-11	National Public Health Week
7	National Walking Day
7	World Health Day
26-30	National Work Zone Awareness Week
26-30	National Playground Safety Week
26-30	National Infant Immunization Week
28	Workers' Memorial Day

Click on an event to learn more!

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



## OSHA News Releases

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



### OSHA Launches Program to Protect High-Risk Workers from Coronavirus, Focuses on Employers That Retaliate Against Workers with Safety Concerns

March 12, 2021

**WASHINGTON, DC** — In response to President Biden's executive order on protecting worker health and safety, the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) has launched a [national emphasis program](#) focusing enforcement efforts on companies that put the largest number of workers at serious risk of contracting the coronavirus. The program also prioritizes employers that retaliate against workers for complaints about unsafe or unhealthy conditions, or for exercising other rights protected by federal law.

"This deadly pandemic has taken a staggering toll on U.S. workers and their families. We have a moral obligation to do what we can to protect workers, especially for the many who have no other protection," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick. "This program seeks to substantially reduce or eliminate coronavirus exposure for workers in companies where risks are high, and to protect workers who raise concerns that their employer is failing to protect them from the risks of exposure."

NEP inspections will enhance the agency's previous coronavirus en-

forcement efforts, and will include some follow-up inspections of worksites inspected in 2020. The program's focused strategy ensures abatement and includes monitoring the effectiveness of OSHA's enforcement and guidance efforts. The program will remain in effect for up to one year from its issuance date, though OSHA has the flexibility to amend or cancel the program as the pandemic subsides.

"With more people being vaccinated and the number of infections trending down, we know there is light at the end of the tunnel. But until we are past this pandemic workers deserve a Labor Department that is looking out for their health," added Frederick.

OSHA state plans have adopted varying requirements to protect employees from coronavirus, and OSHA knows many of them have implemented enforcement programs similar to this NEP. While it does not require it, OSHA strongly encourages the rest to adopt this NEP. State

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.

Check OSHA's [COVID-19 webpage](#) at [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](http://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](#).

plans must notify federal OSHA of their intention to adopt the NEP within 60 days after its issuance.

In a related action, OSHA has also updated its [Interim Enforcement Response Plan](#) to prioritize the use of on-site workplace inspections where practical, or a combination of on-site and remote methods. OSHA will only

use remote-only inspections if the agency determines that on-site inspections cannot be performed safely. On March 18, 2021, OSHA will

rescind the May 26, 2020, memorandum on this topic and this new guidance will go into effect and remain in effect until further notice.

OSHA will ensure that its Compliance Safety and Health Officers have every protection necessary for onsite inspections. When conducting on-site inspections, OSHA will evaluate all risk and utilize appropriate protective measures, including appropriate respiratory protection and other necessary personal protective equipment. ▀

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Release Number: 21-256-NAT





## OSHA News Releases

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



### US Department of Labor Files Federal Complaint Seeking Damages for Whistleblower Fired for Reporting Unsafe Conditions at Missouri Plant

*Zoltek worker sought assistance  
from outside auditor, OSHA to  
address safety concerns*

March 25, 2021

**BRIDGETON, MO** — After a production operator at a carbon fiber manufacturer brought various safety concerns to management, he approached a third-party auditor reviewing operations at the company's St. Peters facility with his concerns. The next day, his employer suspended him.

The worker then filed a safety complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Fourteen days after the suspension, his employer terminated him.

OSHA investigated the worker's allegation that his employer, Zoltek Corp. fired him in April 2019 in retaliation for reporting unsafe working conditions. On March 9, 2021, OSHA

filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division, alleging the company violated the whistleblower statutes when it terminated his employment.

The complaint seeks back wages, reinstatement and damages for the employee, and an order requiring Zoltek Corp. to post a notice regarding employees' rights to report unsafe working conditions without fear of retaliation.

"Commitment to workplace safety should be commended – not punished," said OSHA's Regional Administrator Kimberly Stille in Kansas City, Missouri. "OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program guarantees employees the right to speak out when they believe their safety and health is in jeopardy."

Based in Bridgeton, Zoltek Corp. is a global manufacturer with locations in Utah, Mexico and Hungary. The company disputes the department's allegations.

OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety & Health Act and [more than 20 whistleblower statutes](#). These statutes protect employees from retaliation for reporting violations of workplace safety and health, airline, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health insurance reform, motor vehicle safety, nuclear, pipeline, public transportation agen-

cy, railroad, maritime, securities and tax laws; as well as for engaging in other related protected activities. [Learn more about whistleblower protections.](#) ■



**Editor's note:** The U.S. Department of Labor does not release the names of employees involved in whistleblower complaints.

US Department of Labor v. Zoltek Corp.

Civil Action Number: 4:21-cv-295

#### Media Contacts:

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Release Number: 21-456-KAN

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).

U.S. Dept. of Labor news materials are accessible at [www.dol.gov](http://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).



## 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.

### Interim Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Non-Healthcare Workplaces (Update)

CDC released [updated guidance](#) intended for certain types of workplaces, including high-density, critical infrastructure workplaces. It updates previous guidance on tests to identify current infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and provides additional considerations for screening testing.

### Ventilation in Buildings Frequently Asked Questions (Update)

CDC updated its [Ventilation in Buildings](#) webpage with new FAQs on 1) car-

bon dioxide monitors, 2) temperature and humidity, and 3) the use of fans indoors. CDC also expanded the FAQ on emerging technologies and portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) cleaners to help inform consumers.

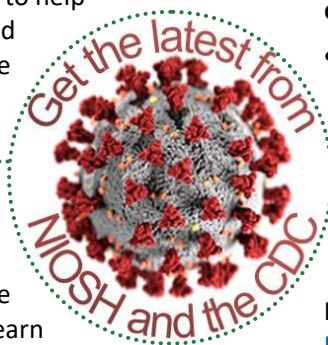
### Personal Protective Equipment Burn Rate Calculator (Version 2)

CDC updated its [PPE Burn Rate Calculator \(Version 2\)](#) with more options for users to collect and view personal protective equipment (PPE) data. The tool was designed to help healthcare and nonhealthcare systems track their

implement and maintain a workplace naloxone program. To learn more, see our [factsheet](#).

### New Webpage Highlights Work and Fatigue Research

NIOSH has launched a new [Work and Fatigue](#) webpage to provide information on the factors contributing to workplace fatigue. Other topics include the associated health and safety risks of workplace fatigue and practical and effective solutions to mitigate fatigue risk. The webpage also highlights NIOSH's activities within the Center for Work and Fatigue Research. Subscribe today for announcements and updates from the Center!



PPE inventory and estimate how long their supply will last. It now has more capability to meet the needs of large companies and facilities with complex inventory tracking needs.

### Safe and Proper Sharps Disposal and Strategies for Sharps Disposal Containers During Shortages Fact Sheets

CDC published a [fact sheet on safe and proper sharps disposal](#) during the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign. This fact sheet provides ways to protect workers from needlestick injuries. A [fact sheet on strategies for sharps disposal container use during supply shortages](#) is also available and includes information on how to conserve your FDA-cleared sharps disposal containers and identifies some alternative sharps disposal containers that meet OSHA requirements.

### New COVID-19 Related NIOSH Science Blogs

- [Preventing Needlestick Injuries at COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)
- [COVID-19 Poses Big Challenges for Small Construction Firms](#)

### New Document Addresses Response Related OSH Research Gaps

NIOSH recently released the [COVID-19 Research Agenda](#) to address occupational health research gaps in the context of the ongoing response. Included are these critical topic areas: Economics, Engineering Controls, Epidemiology/Surveillance, Mental Health, Occupational Environmental/Exposure Assessment, Occupational Violence, Personal Protective Equipment, Transmission/Occupational Health, and Zoonosis.

### NOIRS 2021 Is Now NOIRS 2022!

The National Occupational Injury Research Symposium (NOIRS) has been rescheduled from October 2021 to May 10–12, 2022. The abstract due date has been moved to October 1, 2021. Visit the [NOIRS](#) website for updates as planning efforts for NOIRS 2022 progress.

## Highlights

### Join Us for Safe + Sound Week 2021

Mark your calendars! [Safe + Sound Week](#) will be August 9–15. Show your commitment to safety and health by hosting your own event, attending another organization's event, or sharing information on a variety of safety and health topics. Download the [save the date](#) graphic and share it on social media using #SafeAndSoundAtAWork.

### Addressing Opioid Overdose Deaths in the Workplace

NIOSH recently published a video called [Addressing Opioid Overdose Deaths in the Workplace](#). The video can help employers decide whether to have naloxone, an effective drug for reversing opioid overdoses, available in their workplace. The video also gives employers and workers information on how to



### From the Director's Desk

John Howard, M.D. Director, NIOSH

### April Is Workplace Violence Awareness Month

Workplace violence is any type of violence or threat of violence against workers. It generally occurs in the workplace but can also happen away from it. Workplace violence can range from threats and verbal abuse to more serious events that lead to physical assaults, homicides, and mass casualty events, such as those that occurred recently at workplaces in Atlanta, Georgia, and Boulder, Colorado. Because April is Workplace Violence Awareness month, we would like to share resources on what we know based on research and also where research gaps still exist.

Workplace violence can occur anywhere and at any time, but certain groups of workers are at increased risk. These groups include those who exchange money with the public; transport pas-

sengers, goods, or services; work alone or in small groups late at night or early in the morning; and come into close contact as they treat and provide patient care. Examples include retail workers, nurses, taxi drivers, and others who commonly interact with customers, clients, or patients. However, workplace violence doesn't have to involve workers and customers or clients. Threats and assaults can also come from other employees, supervisors or managers, a domestic partner, or a current or former spouse.

The risk of workplace violence has not decreased during the pandemic—in fact, many incidents have occurred in the past year. The pandemic has intensified feelings of stress and created uncertainty about the future for many, including employers, workers, customers, and clients. Workers were threatened and assaulted as businesses implemented new disease prevention policies and

practices. In response, CDC has developed [guidance](#) for employers and employees in retail and service industries to address workplace violence during this time of uncertainty. Over the last year, there were other violence incidents, including ones affecting healthcare workers, public health professionals, and other frontline workers who experienced stigma, threats, and assaults. Some CDC guidance may be applicable to these groups of workers as well.

NIOSH researchers have studied this complex issue since workplace violence was identified as a public health concern in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Employers and employees in large and small businesses, as well as healthcare settings, can use these [resources and trainings](#) to help reduce workplace violence. While we have learned a lot about workplace violence prevention over the years, knowledge gaps still exist. And with that, NIOSH [continues to prioritize](#) the need for additional research to improve violence prevention for workers through [non-pandemic](#) and [pandemic-related](#) research.

### Data Bulletin Looks at Construction Worker Deaths, 2011–2019

CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training recently released an issue of its [Data Bulletin](#) that focuses on fatal injuries in construction from 2011 through 2019. The report shows more than 1,100 fatal injuries occurred in 2019, the highest level since 2011, with sharply increased injuries among Hispanic workers during the study period. The *Data Bulletin* also found that nearly two-thirds of fatal injuries in 2019 were caused by the OSHA-defined “Construction Focus Four” hazards: falls, struck-by, electrocutions, and caught-in/between.

### Report on Breastfeeding Practices by Occupational Industry

A new [report](#) links New Hampshire (NH) birth data with NH Pregnancy Risk As-

essment Monitoring System data to learn about breastfeeding initiation and duration by industry category. The knowledge gained by exploring breastfeeding status by industry provides insight of where efforts could be made to increase the length of time that working women breastfeed infants. The NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program, which is a NIOSH-funded [State-based Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program](#), developed this report.

### Texas Education and Research Center Looking for Faculty for Total Worker Health® (TWH) Program

A faculty position is now open for a *Total Worker Health*® program within the Southwest Center of Occupational and Environmental Health—one of 18 NIOSH-funded [Education and Research](#)

[Centers](#). To apply or learn more about the position, interested candidates should visit the [UT Health School of Public Health jobs webpage](#).

### CDC Survey on Public Health Workers' Mental Health

CDC recently launched an online survey for all state, tribal, local, and territorial public health workers regarding their mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is in response to how U.S. public health workers have experienced unprecedented challenges in their day-to-day work related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The link to the confidential and anonymous survey will be distributed via APHL, ASTHO, CSTE, and NACCHO to health departments across the country. For more information contact [EOC Events](#).





## HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

### ‘Stress in America’: Survey Finds Large Majority of People Experiencing Long-Term Effects

February 10, 2021

**Washington** — The COVID-19 pandemic, recent political unrest and violence, and a troubled economy have contributed to 84% of U.S. adults experiencing at least one emotion associated with prolonged stress, results of a recent survey commissioned by the American Psychological Association show.

Researchers from the Harris Poll surveyed nearly 2,100 U.S. adults from Jan. 21 to 25. The most common emotions respondents reported experiencing were feelings of anxiousness (47%), sadness (44%) and anger (39%).

On a 10-point scale – with 1 point being little to no stress and 10 points being a

great deal of stress – the respondents’ average stress level over the previous month was 5.6, the highest it’s been since the early days of the pandemic.

Among the most significant sources of stress, the future of the nation was cited by 81% of the respondents, followed by the pandemic (80%) and political unrest (74%).

APA offers the following tips to help manage stress:

- Take a break from the news, social media and certain friends to avoid negative information or rhetoric that can drive up stress levels.
- Practice “three good things” mindfulness: Reflect on three positive things – big or small – at the end of each day. Encourage your friends and family to

do the same.

- Practice self-care throughout the day (e.g., go for a walk, call a friend, watch a TV show) in 15- to 30-minute intervals.
- Stay connected with friends and family to build emotional resiliency so you can support each other.
- Keep things in perspective and try to reframe your thinking to reduce negative interpretations of daily experiences.

“Nearly a year into the pandemic, prolonged stress persists at elevated levels for many Americans,” APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr. said in a press release.

“Without addressing stress as part of a national recovery plan, we will be dealing with the mental health fallout from this pandemic for years to come.”

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Infectious Diseases Standard for Health Care Industry a Priority, OSHA Tells Court

February 22, 2021

**Silver Spring, MD** — OSHA is prioritizing an infectious diseases standard for the health care industry, according to a [motion](#) filed Feb. 16 in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The joint motion, signed by Department of Labor counsel Joseph G. Gilliland and [Democracy Forward Foundation](#) counsel Michael C. Martinez, requested a suspension of a [lawsuit](#) brought against the Trump administration’s DOL, former Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia and OSHA. The court granted the motion Feb. 19.

Democracy Forward filed the suit Oct. 29 on behalf of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the American Federation of Teachers; the Washington State Nurses Association; and the United Nurses Association

of California/Union of Health Care Professionals. The four labor unions were attempting to get the court to compel OSHA to move forward on the standard, which was stalled since 2017.

Oral arguments in the case were set to begin March 3, but the motion states: “Since January 20, 2021, new leadership at OSHA have begun reassessing the agency’s priorities in light of the goals of the new administration. In particular, the agency intends to prioritize the development of an infectious diseases standard for the health care sector.”

The motion cites an [Executive Order signed by President Joe Biden](#) on Jan. 21 directing OSHA to consider an emergency temporary standard for COVID-19 that would cover all workers, including those in health care. If an ETS is considered necessary, the agency is instructed to issue one by March 15.

“We are encouraged by the Biden administration’s representations about prioritizing rulemaking on a permanent

infectious diseases standard,” the unions state in a Feb. 22 press release from Democracy Forward. “Health care professionals across the nation are working tirelessly in the fight against COVID-19. They should be able to rest assured that their employers are required to take steps to protect them from exposure to infectious diseases like COVID-19, the flu, Ebola and more.”

The release contends that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, worker infections in the health care industry totaled 1.7 million a year. During the pandemic, more than 408,000 workers in the industry have become infected with COVID-19 and more than 1,400 have died.

The two parties intend to file a status report in April, in which OSHA “will update the court on the agency’s prioritization of the infectious diseases standard.”

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



"Providing Leadership & Direction to  
the Safety Professional since 1911"



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



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



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.*

2/25: Buick Enclave, Cadillac Escalade, XT4, and XT5, Chevrolet Blazer, Express, Silverado, Suburban, Tahoe, and Traverse, and GMC Acadia, Savana, Sierra 1500, and Yukon—Tire Failure May Cause Sudden Air Loss: [is.gd/GgdKQ7](https://is.gd/GgdKQ7)

3/1: Quaker Oats Company Issues Voluntary Recall of Quaker Rice Crisps Sweet Barbecue Flavor Due to Undeclared Soy Issue: [is.gd/6zy2bg](https://is.gd/6zy2bg)

3/3: Haro Bicycles Recalls Masi Evoluzione and Gran Corsa Bicycles Due to Fall Hazard and Risk of Injury: [is.gd/JDZafM](https://is.gd/JDZafM)

3/4: Polaris Recalls Ranger Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles and ProXD Utility Vehicles Due to Crash Hazard: [is.gd/mbnbpq](https://is.gd/mbnbpq)

3/4: Casa Kids Recalls for Repair Cabina Bunk Beds Due to Fall Hazard: [is.gd/BJXFFx](https://is.gd/BJXFFx)

3/4: Kia Sportage and Cadenza—Engine Compartment Fire: [is.gd/KwBJe3](https://is.gd/KwBJe3)

3/10: Lifetime Products Recalls 6-Foot Seminar Tables Due to Injury Risk: [is.gd/FJjjf](https://is.gd/FJjjf)

3/10: Hillsdale Furniture Recalls Jennings Counter and Bar Stools Due to Fall Hazard: [is.gd/I3001O](https://is.gd/I3001O)

3/10: Ford Edge, Fusion, GT, Mustang, and Ranger, Mercury Milan, and Lincoln MKX, MKZ, and Zephyr—Air Bag Inflator May Explode: [is.gd/WsOiO4](https://is.gd/WsOiO4) and [is.gd/OJX8Au](https://is.gd/OJX8Au) and [is.gd/1Y2DcQ](https://is.gd/1Y2DcQ)

3/11: Melaleuca Recalls Three-Wick Revive Candles Due to Fire and Burn Hazard: [is.gd/wpmV4U](https://is.gd/wpmV4U)

3/11: KTM and Husqvarna Motorcycles Recall Closed Course Competition Motorcycles Due to Crash Hazard: [is.gd/ulclXG](https://is.gd/ulclXG)

3/15: Ditch Witch Missing Side Reflex Reflectors: [is.gd/RWdAYy](https://is.gd/RWdAYy)

3/16: PNH, LLC d/b/a Heal the World Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Heal the World Hand Sanitizer Packaged in 9.6 Ounce Bottles Because They Resemble Small Water Bottles: [is.gd/1Hk9H5](https://is.gd/1Hk9H5)

3/17: Global Home Imports Recalls Platform Bed Frames Due to Serious Injury Hazard: [is.gd/tcmjYj](https://is.gd/tcmjYj)

3/17: HOFISH Recalls Mattresses Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard: [is.gd/AYTi3n](https://is.gd/AYTi3n)

3/18: Parker Squared Recalls Shepherd Boy Plush Toys with Wire Shepherd's Staff Due to Laceration Hazard: [is.gd/7LKkHL](https://is.gd/7LKkHL)

3/18: Genentech Recalls Prescription Drug Evrysdi Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirements; Risk of Drug Exposure through Eye or Skin Absorption: [is.gd/Ep7p3E](https://is.gd/Ep7p3E)

3/18: HD Hudson Recalls Battery-Powered Sprayers Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/SehaF0](https://is.gd/SehaF0)

3/18: Briggs & Stratton Recalls YTL Log Splitters with Briggs & Stratton Engines Due to Injury Hazard: [is.gd/h5RPxx](https://is.gd/h5RPxx)

3/24: Flame King Recalls Hog 100-Pound Propane Cylinders Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/EPHggC](https://is.gd/EPHggC)

3/24: Birdie Belay Devices Recalled Due to Risk of Injury; Made by Beal Sas: [is.gd/VQ6POS](https://is.gd/VQ6POS)

3/24: Real Water, Inc., Issues Precautionary Recall of All Sizes of Real Water Brand Drinking Water Due to a Possible non-viral hepatitis: [is.gd/9Ij9i0](https://is.gd/9Ij9i0)

3/25: Inyo Pool Products Recalls PureLine Pool Pump Motors Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/NoLsXH](https://is.gd/NoLsXH)

3/25: Polaris Recalls Ranger Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles and ProXD, Gravelly and Bobcat Utility Vehicles Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/OUU3pv](https://is.gd/OUU3pv)

3/25: KTM, Husqvarna and GASGAS Recall Closed Course Competition Motorcycles Due to Crash Hazard: [is.gd/LN5IP1](https://is.gd/LN5IP1)

3/27: Trident Seafoods Recalling Pacific Salmon Burger - May contain small pieces of metal: [is.gd/qYH0cG](https://is.gd/qYH0cG)

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

**PRODUCT  
RECALL**



## 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)