

Alert: U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released an alert listing safety tips that employers can follow to help protect manufacturing workers from exposure to the coronavirus. This follows OSHA issuing guidance for the package delivery workforce, retail workers, ten steps all workplaces can take to reduce risk of exposure to coronavirus, and OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19.

These alerts, guidance materials, and other OSHA resources relating to COVID-19 can be found here:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>.

On Wednesday, OSHA released an interim enforcement response plan to OSHA Area Offices and compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) directing them to give "heightened attention" to the current COVID-19 crisis and that any COVID-19 inspections will be treated as novel cases. The guidance further states that:

"Fatalities and imminent danger exposures related to COVID-19 will be prioritized for inspections, with particular attention given to healthcare organizations and first responders. During this outbreak, formal complaints alleging unprotected exposures to COVID-19 for workers with a high/very high risk of transmission, such as a fatality that is potentially related to exposures to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients while performing aerosol-generating procedures without adequate PPE in a hospital, may warrant an on-site inspection."

The law firm McGuireWoods has released a brief document entitled "Preventing COVID-19 Exposure, and Employer Liability, in the Workplace," which can be found here:

<https://www.mcguirewoods.com/client-resources/Alerts/2020/4/preventing-covid-19-exposure-employer-liability-workplace>