

COVID-19/OSHA: Interim Enforcement Response Plan



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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) issued an April 13th guidance memorandum titled:

Interim Enforcement Response Plan for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (“Memorandum”)

The *Memorandum* states it is intended to provide instructions and guidance to Area Offices and compliance safety and health officers for handling COVID-19:

- Related complaints
- Referrals
- Severe illness reports

The guidance is intended to encompass all investigations and inspections specifically related to the workplace hazard of SARS-CoV-2 which is the virus causing the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The *Memorandum* states that OSHA intends to:

- Use its resources to fulfill mission essential functions (i.e., protecting workers)
- Undertake an appropriate diligence to protect OSHA personnel

OSHA states that the interim procedures prescribed by the *Memorandum* are intended to:

... allow flexibility and discretion for our field offices to maximize OSHA’s impact in securing safe workplaces for workers in this evolving environment.

The *Memorandum* includes sections addressing background along with the general enforcement guidance. Further, five attachments are provided which include:

- Specific Guidance for COVID-19 Enforcement
- Sample Employer Letter for COVID-19 Activities
- Sample Hazard Alert Letter for COVID-19 Inspection
- Sample Alleged Violation Description (AVD) for Citing the General Duty Clause
- Additional COVID-19-Related References

A copy of the *Memorandum* can be downloaded [here](#).