



# News Release

U.S. Department of Labor | March 9, 2020

## **U.S. Department of Labor Offers Guidance For Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus**

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today published "Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19" to help companies respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace. The guidance was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

[The document provides practical guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19](#), also known as novel coronavirus, and contains information on safe work practices and appropriate personal protective equipment based on the risk level of exposure.

"Protecting the health and safety of America's workforce is a key component of this Administration's comprehensive approach to combating the coronavirus," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. "This guidance outlines practical ways that employers and workers can address potential health risks from the coronavirus in their workplaces."

This guidance is part of the Department of Labor's ongoing efforts to educate the workers and employers about the COVID-19 outbreak.

- In addition to the guidance, OSHA recently launched a [COVID-19 webpage](#) that provides infection prevention information specifically for workers and employers, and is actively reviewing and responding to any complaints regarding workplace protection from novel coronavirus, as well as conducting outreach activities.
- The Wage and Hour Division is providing information on common issues employers and employees face when responding to COVID-19, including effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs has also [published guidance](#) for federal employees and outlines Federal Employees' Compensation Act coverage as it relates to the novel coronavirus.

For further information about Coronavirus, please visit the HHS's [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

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).

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.

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