



On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program

WisCon Words of Wisdom

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WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	582,843
Total Individuals Recovered	567,745
Total Deaths	6,667
Total Individuals Hospitalized	27,971

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 04/08/2021

WI Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses

Allocated	3,364,565
Total Administered	3,286,594
Johnson & Johnson	133,628
Moderna	1,452,317
Pfizer	1,720,356

Check out the [latest data about Wisconsin's progress!](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Hearing Protection	4/12
Respirator Cleaning	4/19
Work Zone Awareness	4/26
COVID-19 Update	5/3

Welcome Message

Welcome to our first ever edition of *WisCon Words of Wisdom*! This newsletter is being created for safety and health professionals in the state of Wisconsin. Our aim is to bring a monthly update to your inbox with relevant COVID-19 and other safety and health information including a breakdown of where Wisconsin sits with COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccination distribution, the latest OSHA news, our upcoming Monday webinars, and occasionally a ready-made toolbox talk that you can share with others in your organization. We're excited to embark on this adventure and would be thrilled if you subscribed [HERE](#).

OSHA's COVID-19 NEP

On March 12, 2021 OSHA issued a [National Emphasis Program \(NEP\) for COVID-19](#). The goal of the NEP is to significantly reduce or eliminate worker exposures to SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, by targeting industries and worksites where employees may have a high frequency of close contact exposures and therefore, controlling the health hazards associated with such exposures.

Area offices will accomplish this goal by:

- Inspection targeting,
- Outreach to employers, and
- Compliance assistance.

The NEP is expected to account for at least 5% of each Region's total assigned inspection goal. In addition, un-programmed COVID-19 related inspections will continue to be conducted at worksites where employers have a high frequency of close contact exposures.

Vaccine: Who's Next?

Everyone in Wisconsin ages 16 and older is now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

For questions about the COVID-19 vaccine call [884-684-1064](tel:884-684-1064). Translation is available in Spanish, Hmong, Chinese Mandarin, Hindi, Somali.

Or visit the <https://vaccinate.wi.gov/>

The COVID-19 vaccine is free and any offers to get the vaccine will come from known sources, such as your local or tribal health department, health care provider, pharmacy, or a community-based clinic.

To find out where you can get vaccinated visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm>

Or

Use the Map to find a vaccinator in your area: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-map.htm>

Employers who are interested in hosting a vaccination clinic are encouraged to reach out to their local or tribal health department.

Toolbox talk: Distracted Driving

Importance: Driving distracted is a contributing factor in many vehicle incidents. In 2019, 9% of fatal vehicle crashes on U.S. roadways involved distracted drivers, accounting for 3,142 lives lost. In addition, over 26,000 people died in crashes involving distracted drivers from 2012-2019.

Regulations: Each state's legislature and governor make the laws regarding distracted driving. The [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) created a chart that you might find handy especially if traveling across multiple state lines. It describes the statewide laws related to distracted driving across the country. If you want to look closely at individual state laws, consult the appropriate State Highway Safety Office. In Wisconsin, that would be the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety. Wisconsin state law forbids driving "any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail mes-

sage." ([Chapter 346.89\(3\)\(a\)](#))

Tips:

- Silence, turn off, or give your phone to a passenger to operate every time you get behind the wheel.
- Record your voicemail message to tell callers that you are driving or set up automated reply text messages to be sent out whenever your phone is connected to your car via Bluetooth.
- Pull over and stop in a safe area if you have to use your phone.

Summary: Every time you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, you are taking your life and potentially the lives of others into your own hands. Any break in your attention to traffic or road conditions puts you, your passengers, and other vehicles around yours at an increased risk of having a vehicle incident.

COVID-19 Safe Work Guidance

There continues to be no OSHA standard specific to COVID-19. However, employers still are required under the General Duty Clause, [Section 5\(a\)\(1\)](#) of the OSH Act, to provide a safe and healthful workplace that is free from recognized hazards that can cause serious physical harm or death. And all of OSHA's standards that apply to protecting workers from infection remain in place. These include: Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries ([1904](#)), PPE requirements ([1910.132](#), [133](#), & [134](#)), Sanitation ([1910.141](#)), Specifications for accident prevent signs and tags ([1910.145](#)), Bloodborne Pathogens ([1910.1030](#)), and Access to employee exposure medical records ([1910.1020](#)).

On January 29th, 2021, OSHA released [guidance for mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 the workplace](#) as well as specific guidance for various industries. Below is a list of some of the guidelines for manufacturing businesses. For guidance for your specific industry please visit <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/guidance/industry>.

The following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Establish flexible work hours.
- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Use EPA-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#).
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.
- Discourage workers from using other workers' tools and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Practice physical distancing and maintain six feet between co-workers, where possible.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent spread of the virus.
- Train workers on how to properly put on, use/wear, take-off, and maintain protective clothing and equipment.
- Promote personal hygiene. Provide disinfectants and disposable towels workers can use to clean work surfaces.
- Monitor public health communications about COVID-19 recommendations for the workplace and share that information with workers.



1. OSHA COVID-19 / Guidance by Industry Web Page. Retrieved February 19, 2021, from <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/guidance/industry>. Screenshot by Veronica Scott.

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