



On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program

WisCon Words of Wisdom

Volume 1 | Issue 5 | August 2, 2021

WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	622,866
Total Deaths	7,443
Total Individuals Hospitalized	33,328

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 08/2/2021

WI COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses

Total Administered	5,837,154
Johnson & Johnson	241,752
Moderna	2,370,829
Pfizer	3,224,573

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

Upcoming Webinars

Managing Safety & Health	8/9
Radial Arm Saw Safety	8/16
Yard Safety Tips	8/23
Welding Fumes	8/30

Safe + Sound Week

OSHA's Safe + Sound is an ongoing, year-round campaign with a goal to encourage every workplace to develop and maintain a safety and health program.

Safety and health programs help businesses:

- Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses,
- Improve compliance with laws and regulations,
- Reduce costs, including significant reductions in workers' compensation premiums,
- Engage workers,
- Enhance social responsibility goals, and
- Increase productivity and enhance overall business operations.

This year Safe + Sound week is August 9 -15, 2021. All organizations who are looking for an opportunity to recognize their commitment to safety are encouraged to participate. Register your event or look for others participating in your neck of the woods [HERE!](#)



COVID-19 ETS Reminder

All provisions of the [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard \(ETS\)](#) are now fully enforceable. Published in the Federal Register on June 21, 2021, with the scope and application applied to healthcare and health support services, the standard required affected employers to comply with all paragraphs except (i), (k), and (n) by July 6 and paragraphs (i) Physical Barriers, (k) Ventilation, and (n) Training by July 21st, 2021.

Hearing Conservation Program Readiness

Before enforcement activities related to the [Regional Emphasis Program for Exposure to Noise Hazards in the Workplace](#) begins, now is a good time to review your hearing your hearing conservation program (HCP).

An effective HCP includes, at minimum, the following elements: exposure monitoring, baseline and annual audiograms, annual employee noise training, availability of hearing protection, posting of the noise standard, and recordkeeping.

Spotlight Corner—Richard “Dick” Lentz

Richard “Dick” Lentz is our WisCon Safety Supervisor. Dick is one of the longest standing members of our team. While request for health discipline are handled by the Program Manager, Dick assigns safety requests amongst the four dedicated safety consultants and himself. Along with his supervisory role, Dick takes on his own case load. Clients rave about Dick’s helpfulness and expertise even years after his work with them is complete. Maybe you’ll see him the next time you request a Safety visit.

OSHA's Emphasis Programs—NEPs and You

You may be wondering what a National Emphasis Program (NEP) is and how it affects you. National Emphasis Programs are temporary programs that focus OSHA's resources on particular hazards and high-hazard industries across the whole United States. This means that if your industry falls in one of these programs, OSHA could be planning a visit to your facility. Typically, these programs start with an education and outreach campaign where you may hear that you are included in the emphasis program from OSHA directly, trade organizations, even insurance carriers, or other sources like WisCon. This period is followed by enforcement activities such as targeted inspections to facilities like yours until the program's end date.

NEPs are not the only emphasis programs that may impact your business, regional and local OSHA area offices have the power to implement their own Regional Emphasis Programs (REPs) and Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs) in their jurisdiction. These programs focus on hazards that are a particular concern in their area.

So how are these programs identified? These programs are based on risks identified in inspection data, injury and illness data, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports, peer-reviewed literature, analysis of inspection findings, and other available information sources. Some current emphasis programs active in Wisconsin include noise exposure (REP), powered industrial vehicles (REP), fall hazards (REP), com-

bustible dust (NEP), respirable crystalline silica (NEP), and COVID-19 (NEP).

As of June 1st, 2021 OSHA's Region V (Wisconsin is located in Region V) has an active Regional Emphasis Program for Exposure to Noise Hazards in the Workplace. This program applies to private manufacturing industries in NAICS super sectors 32 and 33 with an equal to, or higher than average hearing loss rates for All Private Manufacturing (i.e., ≥8.6). The full list of applicable NAICS codes can be found [HERE](#). Before inspections start in these industries 3 months of outreach will occur. Following that, enforcement activities will begin and will include inspection and review of operations and working conditions, injury and illness records, and safety and health programs.

The first addition of WisCon Words of Wisdom discussed the COVID-19 NEP which was the result of the executive order released by President Joseph Biden on January 21st, 2021 the National Emphasis Program –Coronavirus Disease 2019 was developed and enacted on March 12th, 2021. This NEP focuses on industries where employees have an elevated risk of contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the cause of COVID-19 and it brings special attention to protecting workers from retaliation after reporting unsafe working conditions. Appendix A lists the NAICS codes for primary target industries that will be included in the NEP, this includes many healthcare related industries, grocery and food production, prisons, and more. It is important for individuals in these industries to know that OSHA may be planning a visit to their facility.

COVID-19 Mask Guidance Update

With the increased spread of the COVID-19, particularly the B.1.6.17.2 (Delta) variant, the CDC released updated [interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated](#) people on July 27th. These updates apply to non-healthcare settings and include:

- Added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission;
- Added information that fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated;

- Added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result; and
- CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Visit the CDC's [website](#) to view the level of community transmission in your area.

As a reminder, a person is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) guidance echoes the CDC guidance and encourages everyone to pack a mask when leaving their home.

Wisconsin On-Site Consultation (WisCon) Program

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