



On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program

WisCon Words of Wisdom

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WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	790,282
Total Deaths	8,483
Total Individuals Hospitalized	42,376

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 10/29/2021

WI COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses

Total Administered	6,503,158
Johnson & Johnson	272,620
Moderna	2,520,041
Pfizer	3,710,497

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

Upcoming Webinar Topics

COVID-19 Update	11/1
Manganism	11/8
Closing the Doors / Carbon Monoxide	11/15
Retail Safety	11/22
Relocatable Power Taps	11/29

Sign up [here](#) for weekly webinar reminders! Click [here](#) to view previous webinars!

ETS for Vaccination

There is currently no Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) in effect that dictates vaccination. However, OSHA has been tasked by President Biden with developing a rule that will require all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. This requirement will impact over 80 million workers in private sector businesses with 100+ employees.

At this time, there is no scheduled release date for the ETS, but we expect to see something come out this winter. WisCon will continue to monitor the status and provide updates as information becomes available. We expect the standard will require employers to pay for the testing while vaccinations are paid for through the CARES Act.

COVID-19 Booster Shots

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending for certain members of the population to receive a COVID-19 booster shot. Anyone meeting the criteria below who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine is eligible for their booster shot 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work in [high-risk settings](#)
- Age 18+ who live in [high-risk settings](#)

Individuals who are 18 years or older and received the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine are recommended to obtain a booster shot 2 months after their initial dose. Also you may now "mix and match" which vaccine you receive for your booster dose.

Spotlight Corner— Treena Fiesel

Treena Fiesel is one of our many consultants out and about in the field providing OSHA consultation service. Treena has been with WisCon for more than a year. Before joining the program, she taught at UW-Whitewater for many years and has prior experience in manufacturing settings providing safety guidance. She loves seeing how things are designed and sharing ideas to make processes safer. Treena has a BS in Safety from UW-Whitewater and a Masters and PhD in industrial engineering from UW-Madison. She also holds both the Associate & Certified Safety Professional credentials. She enjoys spending her free time with her family and conquering her latest endeavors.



Heat Stress Initiative from Dan Trocke

Why a heat related article in October you might ask? So we'll have time before summer to plan ahead & develop heat stress training & procedures to keep our workers safe. Also, heat stress doesn't just happen in summer. Working conditions resulting in serious heat-related illnesses occur outdoors & indoors, in all major industry sectors. Indoor worksites where heat-related illnesses may occur include foundries, smelters, bakeries, commercial kitchens, laundries, or other structures without adequate climate control. Outdoor work activities impacted by heat include agriculture, landscaping, construction, road work, & any other activities that require moderate to high physical exertions or the wearing of heavy or bulky clothing or equipment on a hot day. The construction industry alone averages 13 heat related deaths & 567 severe lost day cases per year.

I want to mention the new [Heat Initiative Memo](#) from OSHA. This applies to both indoor & outdoor worksites & is intended to prioritize inspections of complaints, referrals & reports of heat illness, & potential to expand the scope of other OSHA inspections to include heat hazards. The Heat Initiative includes a proactive approach & establishes trigger "Heat Priority Days" when the heat index exceeds 80°F. OSHA has also initiated the [rulemaking process](#) to consider a heat-specific standard and are seeking [comments](#) through December 27, 2021.

Heat Index is crucial to understanding how dangerous heat can be at work. **Heat index** is a measure of how hot it feels based on air temperature & relative humidity (RH) combined. The air temperature, humidity & the exercise itself can increase your core body temperature. When the body gets too hot, it begins to perspire & sends more blood to circulate through your skin to cool itself off. High RH sabotages body defenses, preventing the cooling effect of sweat evaporating from your skin. For example, if the air temperature is 96°F & the RH is 65%, the heat index is 121°F. Analysis shows heat related fatalities begin to occur at a heat index of 80°F.

Relying on just the heat index alone would be ignoring another primary risk factor, metabolic heat. Human bodies can generate significant metabolic heat even on cool days. The more strenuous the activity, the more metabolic heat is generated. **Heat Stress** is the product of both environmental heat & metabolic heat & needs to be our ultimate focus. A successful heat safety program needs to recognize heat stress for different types of work & should be based on how much of the body is involved in the work, the pace, & task time. Intense arm, trunk & leg work such as carrying, shoveling, pushing & pulling heavy loads or walking at a fast pace would be examples of heavy heat stress work.

Taking precautions – the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app available for download on your mobile device features:

- A visual indicator of the current heat index & associated risk levels,
- Precautionary recommendations specific to heat index-associated risk levels,
- An interactive forecast for planning outdoor work activities,
- Editable variables for planning, &
- Signs & symptoms of heat-related illnesses with first aid information.

Employers need to evaluate heat stress hazard conditions & plan ahead to address working during these conditions by creating a **Heat Illness Prevention Plan**. Important elements to consider include:

- Who will provide oversight on a daily basis? Do they have training & authority?
- How will new workers, temp workers, & workers returning from extended leave gradually develop heat tolerance?
- How will the employer ensure that first aid / medical attention is quickly available?
- What engineering controls & work practices will be used to reduce heat stress?
- How will heat stress be measured?
- How will we determine if the total heat stress is hazardous?
- How to respond to National Weather Service heat advisory or warnings?
- What training will be provided?

Supervisors & those monitoring & imple-

menting the plan need proper training to:

- Identify & control heat hazards;
- Recognize early symptoms of heat stress;
- Administer first aid for heat-related illnesses; &
- Activate emergency medical services quickly when needed.

Employers & workers should know the methods of abating heat stress hazards in workplaces & steps to take to prevent heat-related illness & death. An employer's policy should include:

- Frequently scheduled water breaks & allowance for workers to drink cold liquids (e.g., sports drinks) at will;
- Implement a work/rest regimen so that exposure time to high temperatures &/or the work rate is decreased. Provide shade & ample time to rest. Reschedule work to cooler periods of the day; &
- Develop a heat stress program which incorporates:
- Training on the health effects of heat stress, the symptoms of heat stress & methods of preventing heat induced illnesses;
- A screening program to identify health conditions aggravated by elevated environmental temperatures;
- An acclimation program for new or returning employees to gradually increase workloads;
- Specific heat-related emergency procedures; &
- Provisions that first aid be administered immediately for symptoms of heat-related illness.

When workers & management both recognize the hazard of dangerous heat conditions, adopt the latest tools to track heat index & heat stress in real time, & have a plan in place to do the work safely with trained people responsible to monitor the heat index & authorized to initiate procedures & changes in the work place, we take a proactive approach before people start reporting ill.

More information is available on OSHA's [website](#) & OSHA's Technical Manual chapter on [Heat Stress](#).

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