



WisCon Words of Wisdom

Volume 2 | Issue 5 | May 2, 2022

WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	1,415,864
Total Deaths	12,883
Total Individuals Hospitalized	60,201

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 4/29/2022

WI COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses

Total Administered	9,461,595
Johnson & Johnson	345,584
Moderna	3,567,894
Pfizer	5,548,117

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

Upcoming Webinar Topics

COVID-19 Update	5/2
Fall Protection	5/9
Lyme Disease and Prevention	5/16
No Webinar: AIHce	5/23
No Webinar: Memorial Day	5/30

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

National Safety Stand-Down To Prevent Falls in Construction

May 2-6, 2022 is the [National Safety Stand-Down](#) to prevent falls in construction. Falls are the leading cause of death for construction workers and this program is a chance to remind about the dangers associated with fall hazards and the importance of fall protection.

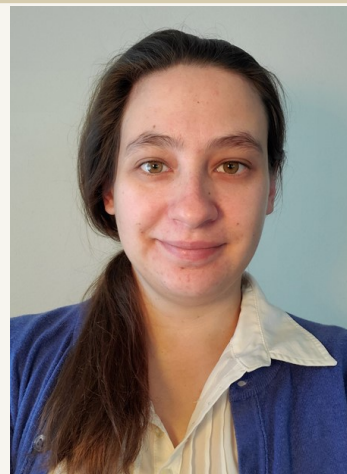
Participation in a Safety Stand-Down is voluntary and can vary from a short 15 minute toolbox talk reminding employees of safety rules to hours of training conducted over the week. Millions of individuals in all 50 states have participated in previous Safety Stand-Downs including companies as small as 1 employee to the largest participant in 2015 and 2016, the United States Air Force, which reached 1 million individuals. Everyone including general contractors, sub-and independent contractors, employer's trade associations, federal, state and local governmental agencies, professional societies, institutes, and consumer/labor-management interest organizations is invited to participate in the National Safety Stand-Down. Companies that do participate can download a [certificate of participation from OSHA's website](#).

OSHA also has many resources to assist companies with planning their toolbox talk in both English and Spanish. They suggest following an 8 step process to successfully prepare for your Stand-Down.

- Try to start early.
- Think about asking your subcontractors, owner, architects, engineers, and others to participate.
- Consider reviewing your fall prevention program.

Spotlight Corner—Veronica Scott

Veronica started her journey with WisCon in the summer of 2019 as a one of our Program Assistants and quickly transitioned into one of our fabulous field consultants. She also services as our group's EHS and Marketing Coordinator. Veronica has a Masters degree from Virginia Tech and worked in science communication before joining WisCon. She provides swift responses to client questions and is quick to volunteer to help her fellow consultants or spearhead new projects. In fact, Veronica supplied all of the content for this month's newsletter. She enjoys spending her free time with family & friends.



What is the best type of hearing protection?

The kind your employees wear correctly and consistently. Asking for employee input before purchasing hearing protection can help get employee buy in and increase the odds that employees will feel more comfortable with the PPE they are required to wear.

Here are a few more tips for choosing the right hearing protection:

You need to know how much noise reduction you will need. This means that you will need to evaluate the noise level at your worksite. You can conduct a noise survey at your workplace. A less comprehensive measure is to use a sound level meter to determine the sound in a particular area of your workplace. [NIOSH has a free sound level meter app](#) that can be used as an initial step in your evaluation of sound in your workplace. NIOSH recommends aiming for just enough noise reduction to bring your exposure down to 75-85 dBA. Reduction below that can cause employees to feel isolated and make them less aware of their surroundings. Employee exposure monitoring using a noise dosimeter can give you a better understanding of an employee's exposure throughout the work shift. If you're a small Wisconsin business, WisCon can perform this assessment for free. Once you know how loud your workplace is you can identify the amount of reduction you need.

You want to evaluate the worksite and job tasks for your employees. Will employees be in very warm environments where ear muffs may make employees uncomfortably warm? Are they in

very cold environments where ear muffs can provide extra warmth? Is noise constant or intermittent? In situations where noise is intermittent, ear muffs are a nice because they are easy to remove and replace. Similarly, pre-formed ear plugs are easier to remove and replace than foam ear plugs and are often preferred in situations where noise is not constant. Will hands get dirty frequently? It may be difficult to replace foam ear plugs in a sanitary manner. Will employees need to wear additional PPE? Some PPE may interfere with the seal on the ear muffs so plugs may be a better option. You also want to address the communication needs of your employees. Will employees need to communicate frequently? Headsets with radios may be an option to ensure employees are not removing hearing protection to communicate in noisy environments.

You want to consider fit and convenience. Everyone's body is different so some ear plugs that fit well on some employees will not fit others. Having multiple options is important to ensure that all employees can find hearing protection that fits them. When it comes to convenience, ear plugs are light weight, easy to store, and inexpensive which can make them a good option in many workplaces. Some are designed to only be worn once and then discarded. In workplaces where employees are constantly removing and replacing hearing protection, this may be a large inconvenience.

Evaluating the level of noise in your workplace, the physical conditions of the work environment, and taking into account employee opinions will help you find the right hearing protection for your workplace.

Continued from Page 1: National Safety Stand-Down

- Develop presentations or activities that will meet your needs.
- Decide when to hold the stand-down and how long it will last.
- Promote the stand-down.
- Hold your stand-down.
- Follow up.

You can view [Events](#) scheduled for this year's program or use some of the [Resources](#) on OSHA's website. Resources include, fact sheets, infographics, lesson plans, apps, e-tools, videos, and many others. Whatever your needs, you are sure to find something to make planning your stand-down a success.

Act Now to Prevent Heat Illness at Work

Right now, heat illness is a hot topic. Employees exposed to extreme heat and humid working conditions are at risk – both indoors and outdoors. Join OSHA's Region V in a three part heat initiative webinar series offering critical guidance about how to identify heat stress, how it affects the human body, and how to prevent it on the job. These FREE 1-hour presentations will take place on the following Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:00 AM CDT:

May 10th — The basics of occupational exposure to heat.

May 17th — OSHA's NEP on Outdoor and Indoor heat-related hazards and an overview of heat stress cases.

May 24th — Strategies and best practices to prevent heat illness at work and heat stress and employer readiness.

Register at <https://nsec.niu.edu/nsec/webinars/index.shtml>.

Wisconsin Safety and Health Consultation Program

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<http://slh.wisc.edu/wiscon>

WSLH COVID-19 Consulting

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