



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH ALERT 2024-03 [07 March 2024]

Revised CDC Guidance in re COVID-19

The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) has received many questions from many ports about recent revisions to the Centers for Disease Control's COVID-19 guidance for persons who become infected with that virus. This OSH Alert is offered as a means to provide an update to our management & labor constituents with regard to that particular subject.

To do so, the JSC will excerpt a well written and easily understandable piece taken from a recently published scholarly law article. We quote:

"The [CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance](#) says people who are sick with a respiratory virus, including COVID-19, should stay home and away from others until at least 24 hours after both their symptoms are getting better overall and they have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

Because some people may remain contagious after this period, the CDC advises that people should take additional preventive steps for five days after returning to normal activities, "such as taking more steps for cleaner air, enhancing hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitting mask, keeping a distance from others, and/or getting tested for respiratory viruses." The CDC reminds us that "[e]nhanced precautions are especially important to protect those most at risk for severe illness, including those over 65 and people with weakened immune systems."

"Since the official end of the COVID-19 public health emergency last year, employers have been in a quandary concerning what, if any, steps were required if an employee reported they had tested positive for COVID-19. Many employers [and employees] have continued to follow CDC guidance.

The latest CDC change makes it easier for these employers [and employees] to begin treating COVID-19 like they treat other respiratory illnesses. In many jurisdictions and industries, COVID-19 protocols have evolved away from contact tracing and reporting and now, employers [and employees] can say goodbye to the five-day isolation periods."

Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

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