

GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYERS RETURNING TO WORK TECHNICAL BRIEF

ORIGIN: Moldex® Technical Services Department

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OSHA recently issued guidance for employers returning to work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. While the guidance is not a standard or regulation, it does contain helpful recommendations and descriptions of some of the pertinent mandatory safety and health standards.

The recommendations are intended to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace for returning employees.

Below we have outlined the guidance in an effort to further help employers implement safety protocols and strategies for their employees as they return to work and reopen businesses.

Employers should implement strategies, including, but not necessarily limited to the following:

Hazard Assessment: Assess job tasks or categories to determine occupational exposure. Consideration must be given to exposures from customers or visitors with whom workers interact, as well as exposures from contact with coworkers.

Basic hygiene: Provide soap/hand sanitizers (containing at least 60% alcohol), water and paper towels. Identify high traffic areas and surfaces or items that are frequently touched that could become contaminated. Target them for enhanced cleaning and disinfections using EPA registered disinfectants and using CDC guidelines.

Identification and isolation of sick employees: Ask employees to evaluate if they have any signs or symptoms of illness before coming to work. Ensure that sick employees or those feeling unwell stay at home. Establish a protocol for managing people who become ill at work.

Returning to work after illness or exposure: Follow CDC guidance for discontinuing self-isolation and returning to work. Workplace Controls: Controls include physical barriers/shields, separating workers, enhanced ventilation, staggering work shifts, limiting breakroom capacity, replacing in person meetings with virtual meetings, ensuring workers are using proper PPE.

Employee training: Provide training to workers on the risks of COVID-19, what you are doing to protect them. Train employees about wearing of face coverings and company policies.

Enforce Social Distancing: Limit occupancy for workers/customers, demarcate flooring in six foot zones and appropriate signage.

For details on the official OSHA guidance see: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA4045.pdf>

Moldex Solution

As you head back to work ensure controls have been established for minimizing contact between workers. Moldex Magnetic Bracket and PlugStation/EcoStation earplug dispensers allow employers to hang protection in multiple areas, limiting workers from gathering in one area for obtaining PPE. Facial coverings too should be used as barrier or source controls for workers. An excellent solution is an N95 mask to be used for barrier control.

Contact us to learn about how Moldex hearing and respiratory protection can help your organization as you head back to work.

For more information on Moldex's response to COVID-19 please refer to our News section: <https://www.moldex.com/news/>