

### **The theme this month is Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace**

Under the OSH Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. The information below is a summary of the information available through OSHA.

CDC's Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People explains that under some circumstances, fully vaccinated people need not take all the precautions that unvaccinated people should take, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. However, in light of evidence related to the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the CDC updated its guidance to recommend that even people who are fully vaccinated wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission, or if they have had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 and have not had a subsequent negative test 3-5 days after the last date of that exposure.

Employers should engage with workers to determine how to protect unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk workers and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:

1. Facilitate employees getting vaccinated, including providing onsite vaccinations and incentives.
2. Instruct any workers who are infected, unvaccinated workers who have had close contact with someone who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and all workers with COVID-19 symptoms to stay home from work.
3. Implement physical distancing in all communal work areas for unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk workers.
4. Provide workers with face coverings or surgical masks,<sup>4</sup> as appropriate, unless their work task requires a respirator or other PPE.
5. Educate and train workers on your COVID-19 policies and procedures using accessible formats and in languages they understand.
6. Suggest or require that unvaccinated customers, visitors, or guests wear face coverings in public-facing workplaces such as retail establishments, and that all customers, visitors, or guests wear face coverings in public, indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.
7. Maintain Ventilation Systems.
8. Perform routine cleaning and disinfection.
9. Record and report COVID-19 infections.
10. Implement protections from retaliation and set up an anonymous process for workers to voice concerns about COVID-19-related hazards.
11. Follow other applicable mandatory OSHA standards.
12. Communicate information to employees by posting appropriately in the plants and through 'toolbox talks'.

Further guidance for manufacturing and updates may be found at <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>.

#### **Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:**

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Background on this process and the template are attached for your reference. Questions should be directed to David Fink at

# SAFETY BULLETIN – AUGUST 2021

[dfink@plasticpipe.org](mailto:dfink@plasticpipe.org). We look forward to your company’s participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.

## **Safety Minute of the Month: Sanitation**

Workers should be reminded to frequently wash their hands. In addition, have sanitation stations placed appropriately throughout the worksite. Finally, be sure to wipe down areas frequently touched by employees. Have a plan in place for cleaning.

## **Safety Statistics for months Feb’21 to Jul’21:**

