MIOSHA Workplace Guidelines, New Hotline to Protect Michigan Workers; Employers Must take necessary precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19

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As the curve continues to flatten and many businesses reopen their doors, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) within the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) issued workplace guidelines for **employers** and **employees** and created a new hotline, 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219), to answer guideline questions and further protect Michigan's workforce from the spread of COVID-19.

Additionally, MIOSHA provides further clarification the **construction** and **manufacturing** sectors must take to protect workers that have returned to work. The State of Michigan's Workplace Safety Guidelines can be found on LEO's homepage at **Michigan.gov/LEO**.

"We have to be smart about protecting our workforce and issuing these guidelines helps us ensure businesses reopen safely," LEO Director Jeff Donofrio said. "And when employers have the proper guidance to protect their employees and customers, we can all do our part to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and continue to save lives."

On a scale from low to very high, exposure determination is the leading factor to the level of precaution an employer should take to protect their employees and can vary within the same facility.

Employers must create a written exposure control plan which includes exposure determination and outlines measures that will be taken to prevent employee exposure to COVID-19, including as appropriate:

- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Hand hygiene and environmental surface disinfection
- Personal protective equipment
- Health surveillance
- Training

Incorporating the latest guidance for COVID-19 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Governor's Executive Orders on reopening industries.

A key component to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is the ability for employers to provide adequate training on potential risk to their employees. Under these guidelines, MIOSHA encourages training that includes steps the employee must take to notify the employer of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and reporting suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Employers are to provide updated training to employees if changes are made to its exposure control plan or new information becomes available about the transmission of COVID-19.

"As the governor follows the science and data to re-engage our economy, our first priority is to protect workers from the spread of COVID-19," MIOSHA Director Bart Pickelman said. "If employers follow the workplace guidelines, we can ensure Michiganders can return home healthy and safe."

Best practices that employees need to follow to be vigilant in protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19:

- Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water,
- Limit contact with others by remaining six feet apart,
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and tools routinely,
- Stay home if you or someone in your household is sick,
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and
- Practice self-screenings to check for any symptoms.

The new toll-free number will provide additional support, utilizing experienced MIOSHA staff, to best answer questions from employers and workers to quickly respond to inquiries related to COVID for all involved.
Employers and employees with questions regarding workplace safety and health may contact MIOSHA using the new hotline at 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219).

To report health and safety concerns in the workplace, go to **www.michigan.gov/MIOSHAcomplaint**.

Learn more about MIOSHA and their efforts to protect Michigan's workforce at **Michigan.gov/MIOSHA**.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at **michigan.gov/coronavirus** and **CDC.gov/Coronavirus**.

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