Safety Guidance for Reopening & Maintaining Manufacturing Facilities During COVID-19

This collection of safety-related resources is intended to support Ohio manufacturers as they reopen facilities or continue essential operations during the COVID-19 outbreak. This guidance has not been issued by the OMA; it has been collected by the OMA from credible sources and public health authorities. This document is designed only as guidance and general reference for manufacturers. For specific questions relating exclusively to your operations, please work with your internal experts and state/local public health authorities.

Overview

When Gov. Mike DeWine outlined Ohio's "Path Forward to Restart" on April 17, 2020, he mentioned the following best practices, which have been used at essential businesses that continued to operate during the stay-at-home order:

- Distancing; ("The more, the better.")
- Use of masks;
- Use of gloves;
- Use of barriers;
- Frequent hand-washing and sanitizing;
- Frequent disinfecting of surfaces;
- Staggered shifts and lunches;
- Health checks of employees when they arrive at work;
- Working remotely when possible; and
- Limiting number of occupants in confined areas (both customers and employees).

General Guidance

- OSHA's guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19.

- CDC's resources for businesses and employers.

- The CDC on [preparing your small business and employees for the effects of COVID-19](#).

- The CDC's [interim guidance for employers to plan and respond to COVID-19](#).

- OSHA's poster on [steps to reduce the risk of exposure in workplaces](#).

- Benesch on [planning for a return to normal operations](#) after COVID-19.

- Fisher Phillips [FAQs on workplace safety issues during COVID-19](#).

- Lear, a global automotive technology leader, has published this [Safe Work Playbook](#) to offer potentially helpful practices for workplace safety.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- The CDC's [guidance on cleaning and disinfecting facilities](#).

- The CDC's [guidance on cleaning vehicles](#).

- U.S. EPA's list of [disinfectants for use against the coronavirus](#).

Face Coverings

- Ohio Department of Health's [guidance on face coverings](#).

- The CDC's [questions and answers on face coverings](#).

- The CDC's [interim guidance for conserving and extending filtering facepiece respirator supply](#) in non-health care sectors.

Other Safety Protocols

- Ohio Department of Health's [guidance for safe food handling](#).

Health Checks

- The CDC's ["symptoms of coronavirus" page](#).

- The CDC's guidance on testing for COVID-19.

- The CDC's page on groups at higher risk for severe illness.

- Some companies are purchasing serological tests to detect antibodies or proteins found in the blood to help identify individuals who have overcome an infection and developed an immune response. The Ohio Department of Health strongly recommends that employers review this information before purchasing or using COVID-19 antibody test kits.

- Fisher Phillips on how measuring worker temperatures could lead to wage and hour claims.

Confirmed/Suspected Cases of COVID-19 at Your Facility

- Ohio Department of Health's checklist to address potentially exposed essential workers.

- The CDC's page on safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have been exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- OSHA's stated intent to not enforce COVID-19 recordkeeping requirements in certain situations.

- Roetzel has this insight on the U.S. Labor Department's additional guidance to employers on issues of reporting of cases of COVID-19.

- Fisher Phillips on the CDC's relaxed return-to-work standards after COVID-19 exposure.

For specific health-related questions, the Ohio Department of Health call center is ready to answer your questions about COVID-19. Call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.