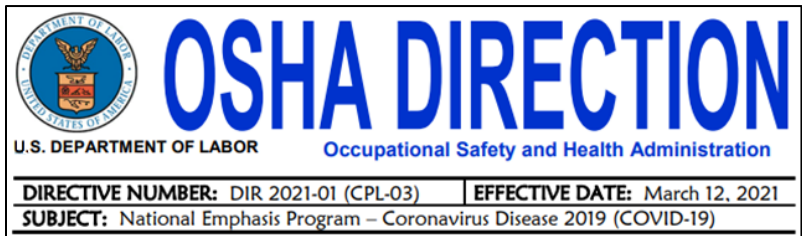


OSHA National Emphasis Program – COVID-19

Effective Date: March 12, 2021

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a new direction, effective March 12, 2021. This new OSHA Direction, [DIR-2021-01 \(CPL-03\)](#) does four things:



(1) describes policies and procedures for implementing a National Emphasis Program (NEP) to protect employees in high-hazard industries from contracting SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2), which is the cause of COVID-19;

(2) augments OSHA's efforts addressing un-programmed COVID-19-related activities (e.g., such as complaints);

(3) targets establishments with increased potential exposure to COVID-19; and

(4) adds focus to ensure workers are protected from retaliation.

Note: The OSHA Regional goal of this NEP is to continue performing a high percentage of COVID-19 inspections (at least 5 percent) of the Region's total assigned inspection goal.

This Direction is effective for 12 months, unless canceled or extended by a superseding directive. Federal agencies are covered by this emphasis program, provided the agencies are subject to inspection and have employees exposed to hazards covered in this NEP. The primary and secondary target industries are described in Appendices A and B.

Appendix A of the Direction lists primary target industries in healthcare (e.g., offices of physicians/dentists, ambulance services, general medical/surgical hospitals), and non-healthcare (e.g., grocery stores, discount department stores, general warehousing and storage, limited service restaurants, correctional institutions) by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Appendix B lists secondary non-healthcare (e.g., construction of buildings, misc. manufacturing, school and employee bus transportation, postal service).

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smcx.org/>.