

Update from Shannon Meade, Vice President of Public Policy and Legal Advocacy, regarding U.S. DOL Guidance for Employers and the OSHA ETS for the Healthcare Sector.

The OSHA ETS was just issued and applies only to the healthcare sector, as previously advised. Also just released was new guidance from U.S. DOL directed at all other industries, including the restaurant and foodservice industry, not covered by the ETS that is intended to help employers identify COVID-19 exposure risks to workers who are unvaccinated or otherwise at-risk, and to help them take appropriate steps to prevent exposure and infection. Staff will send additional information once we have had an opportunity to analyze the information. See links below.

OSHA ETS for Healthcare Sector: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Updated guidance for all industries: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>

Specifically, the guidance addresses the steps employers should take to protect unvaccinated or otherwise at-risk workers in their workplaces, as detailed below:

to the spread of COVID-19, including:

1. ***Grant paid time off for employees to get vaccinated.***
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 to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.***
3. ***Implement physical distancing for unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk workers in all communal work areas.***
4. ***Provide unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk workers with face coverings or surgical masks, 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 language they understand.***
6. ***Suggest that unvaccinated customers, visitors, or guests wear face coverings.***
7. ***Maintain Ventilation Systems.***
8. ***Perform routine cleaning and disinfection.***
9. ***Record and report COVID-19 infections and deaths.***
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, including all of OSHA's standards that apply to protecting workers from infection remain in place.***