

OSHA Launches COVID Website for the Construction Industry

By: Melissa Tetreau, Senior Associate

Over the past month or so, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) has been publishing a series of industry-specific guidance on safely returning to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance, while non-binding, includes recommended measures to reduce employee risk of coronavirus exposure.

On May 26, 2020, OSHA launched a [website](#) with coronavirus-related guidance for the construction industry (which includes carpentry, ironworking, plumbing, electrical, heating/air conditioning/ventilation, utility construction work, and earth-moving activities). The website classifies construction industry tasks by level of exposure risk, from low-risk to very-high risk. It then lists recommended engineering and administrative controls that construction employers should take as employees return to work, including:

- Erecting plastic sheeting barriers when essential indoor construction workers are less than 6 feet from a suspected or known COVID-19 patient (whether that be a co-worker, subcontractor, or customer);
- Identifying other changes that can decrease the need for N95 respirators and PPE in short supply;
- Training employees on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, how it spreads, and how to reduce exposure risk;
- Training employees on proper use of PPE and company measures to protect employees from the virus;
- Screening calls when scheduling indoor construction work to assess potential exposure before worker entry;
- Adopting staggered work schedules;
- Identifying choke points and implementing social distancing policies in those areas; and
- Keeping in-person meetings as short as possible and limiting the number of workers in attendance.

OSHA continues to issue updated guidance for all industries, and employers should monitor the OSHA website as well as Bodman’s [COVID-19 Response Page](#) for updates. If you have questions or need assistance in identifying and implementing OSHA guidance, reach out to any member of Bodman’s Workplace Law Group. Bodman cannot respond to your questions or receive information from you without first clearing potential conflicts with other clients. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

WORKPLACE LAW PRACTICE GROUP	AARON D. GRAVES <i>Chair</i> 313.392.1075 agraves@bodmanlaw.com	JOHN T. BELOW 248-743-6035 jbelow@bodmanlaw.com	JOHN C. CASHEN 248.743.6077 jcashen@bodmanlaw.com
	GARY S. FEALK 248-743-6060 gfealk@bodmanlaw.com	STEVEN J. FISHMAN 248.743.6070 sfishman@bodmanlaw.com	JOHN DAVID GARDINER 616.205.3123 jgardiner@bodmanlaw.com
	MELISSA M. TETREAU 248.743.6078 mtetreau@bodmanlaw.com	BRENT R. SCOTT 616.205.3317 bscott@bodmanlaw.com	REBECCA C. SEGUIN-SKRABUCHA 313.393.7594 rsequin-skrabucha@bodmanlaw.com
	KATHERINE F. CSER 248.743.6031 kcser@bodmanlaw.com	DAVID B. WALTERS 248.743.6052 dwalters@bodmanlaw.com	KAREN L. PIPER <i>Of Counsel</i> 248.743.6025 kpiper@bodmanlaw.com