

# LEGAL UPDATE

## OSHA Updates Guidance for Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace

On Aug. 13, 2021, OSHA once again updated its [guidance](#) on mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The latest guidance reflects developments in science and data including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) updated [COVID-19 guidance](#) that was issued on July 27, 2021. This updated guidance expands information on appropriate measures for protecting workers in higher-risk workplaces with mixed-vaccination status, particularly for industries noted for prolonged close-contacts like meat processing, manufacturing, seafood and poultry processing, grocery and high-volume retail and agricultural processing.

The guidance has been updated twice since its original publication date of Jan. 29, 2021.

### Updated Guidance

OSHA's latest guidance:

- ☑ Recommends that fully vaccinated workers in areas of substantial or high community transmission wear masks;
- ☑ Recommends that fully vaccinated workers who have close contacts with people with coronavirus wear masks for up to 14 days;
- ☑ Clarifies recommendations to protect unvaccinated workers and other at-risk workers in industries with prolonged close contact; and
- ☑ Links to the latest guidance on K-12 schools and CDC statements on public transit.

### Employer Next Steps

Employers should continue to take steps to protect at-risk or unvaccinated workers in their workplace. Employers can do this by implementing multilayered interventions to protect these workers and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### Important Information

OSHA continues to emphasize that vaccination is the optimal step to protect workers and encourages employers to engage with workers and their representatives to implement multi-layered approaches to protect unvaccinated or otherwise at-risk workers from COVID-19.

*The updated guidance expands information on appropriate measures for protecting workers in higher-risk workplaces with mixed-vaccination status workers.*

Provided to you by **Relation Insurance Services**

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