

16 VAC 25-220, **Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation**

Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19

June 12, 2020



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**NOTE: Items highlighted in yellow are subject to change.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff of the Department of Labor and Industry recommends that the Safety and Health Codes Board adopt 16 VAC 25-220, **Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation,** Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19 with an effective date of [REDACTED]

The Department also recommends that the Board state in any motion it may make regarding this emergency temporary standard/emergency regulation that it will receive, consider and respond to petitions by any interested person at any time with respect to reconsideration or revision of this or any other standard or regulation.

**16 VAC 25-220, Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation**

**Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19**

As Adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date:



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date:

16 VAC 25-220

## Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation

### Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19

#### 16 VAC 25-220

#### §10 Purpose, scope, and applicability.

- A. This emergency temporary standard/emergency regulation is designed to establish requirements for employers to control, prevent, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to and among employees and employers.<sup>1</sup>
- B. This standard/regulation adopted in accordance with Va. Code § 40.1-22(6)(a) or §2.2-4011 shall apply to every employer, employee, and place of employment in the Commonwealth of Virginia within the jurisdiction of the VOSH program as described in §§ 16VAC25-60-20<sup>2</sup> and 16VAC25-60-30<sup>3</sup>.
- C. This standard/regulation is designed to supplement and enhance existing VOSH laws, rules, regulations, and standards applicable directly or indirectly to SARS-CoV-2 virus or COVID-19 disease related hazards, such as but not limited to, those dealing with personal protective equipment, respiratory protective equipment, sanitation, access to employee exposure and medical records, occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in laboratories, hazard communication, Va. Code §40.1-51.1.A<sup>4</sup>, etc. Should this standard/regulation conflict with an existing VOSH rule, regulation, or standard, the more stringent requirement from an occupational safety and health hazard prevention standpoint shall apply.
- D. Application of this standard/regulation to a place of employment will be based on the exposure risk level presented by SARS-CoV-2 virus-related and COVID-19 disease-related hazards present or job tasks undertaken by employees at the place of employment as defined in this standard/regulation (i.e., “very high”, “high”, “medium”, and “lower”).

<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: Michigan Occupational Safety and Health (MIOSHA) draft Emergency Rule

<sup>2</sup> <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+16VAC25-60-20>

<sup>3</sup> <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+16VAC25-60-30>

<sup>4</sup> <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/40.1-51.1/>

1. It is recognized that various hazards or job tasks at the same place of employment can be designated as “very high”, “high”, “medium”, or “lower” exposure risk for purposes of application of the requirements of this **standard/regulation**. It is further recognized that various required job tasks prohibit an employee from being able to observe physical distancing from other persons.

2. Factors that shall be considered in determining exposure risk level include, but are not limited to:

a. The job tasks being undertaken; the known or suspected presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; the presence of a known or suspected COVID-19 person; the number of employees in relation to the size of the work area; the working distance between employees and other employees or persons; the duration and frequency of employee exposure through close contact (i.e., inside of six feet) with other employees or persons (e.g., including shift work exceeding 8 hours per day);

b. The type of contact, including potential exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus through respiratory droplets in the air; airborne exposures in the form of aerosols, and contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, such as tools, workstations, or break room tables, and shared spaces such as shared workstations, break rooms, locker rooms, and entrances/exits to the facility; industries or places of employment where sharing transportation is a common practice, such as ride-share vans or shuttle vehicles, car-pools, and public transportation, etc.<sup>5</sup>

b-c.

E. Reference to the term “employee” in this **standard/regulation** includes temporary employees and other joint employment relationships, as well as persons in supervisory or management positions with the employer.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/meat-poultry-processing-workers-employers.html>

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F. This standard/regulation may not conflict with requirements and guidelines applicable to businesses set out in any applicable executive order or order of public health emergency.

~~G. To the extent that an employer complies with requirements contained in CDC publications to mitigate SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related hazards or job tasks addressed by this standard/regulation, the employer's actions shall be considered in compliance with this standard/regulation.~~

### §20 Dates.

[Under §40.1-22(6)]

This emergency temporary standard shall take immediate effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation, published in the City of Richmond, Virginia. This emergency temporary standard shall expire within six months of its effective date or when superseded by a permanent standard, whichever occurs first, or when repealed by the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board.

[Under §2.2-4011]

This emergency regulation shall become effective upon approval by the Governor and filing with the Registrar of Regulations pursuant to § 2.2-4012. This emergency regulation shall be limited to no more than 18 months in duration, except as otherwise provided in §2.2-4011.

### §30 Definitions.

“Administrative Control” means any procedure which significantly limits daily exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related workplace hazards and job tasks by control or manipulation of the work schedule or manner in which work is performed. The use of personal protective equipment is not considered a means of administrative control.<sup>6</sup>

“Airborne infection isolation room (AIIR)”, formerly a negative pressure isolation room, means a single-occupancy patient-care room used to isolate persons with a suspected or confirmed airborne infectious disease. Environmental factors are controlled in AIIRs to

<sup>6</sup> VOSH FOM Chapter 5, page 71, [https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\181\GDoc\\_DOLI\\_5354\\_v6.pdf](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\181\GDoc_DOLI_5354_v6.pdf)

**Commented [TP1]:** Compliance with CDC guidelines CANNOT supersede the VA OSHA standard. As pointed out during previous SHCB meetings, it is very hard to enforce guidelines. The Virginia rule must require better protections for workers and not rely solely on CDC Guidelines. See Recommendation: **This exemption must be removed as it would undermine all of the protections required in the standard.**

minimize the transmission of infectious agents that are usually transmitted from person to person by droplet nuclei associated with coughing or aerosolization of contaminated fluids. AIRRs provide negative pressure in the room (so that air flows under the door gap into the room); *and* an air flow rate of 6-12 ACH (6 ACH for existing structures, 12 ACH for new construction or renovation); *and* direct exhaust of air from the room to the outside of the building or recirculation of air through a HEPA filter before returning to circulation.<sup>7</sup>

“Asymptomatic” means an employee that has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 but who is not symptomatic.

“Building/facility owner”<sup>8</sup> means the legal entity, including a lessee, which exercises control over management and record keeping functions relating to a building and/or facility in which activities covered by this standard take place.

“CDC” means Centers for Disease Control.

“Cleaning” means the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs. But by removing the germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spreading infection.<sup>9</sup>

“Community transmission”, also called “community spread” means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.<sup>10</sup> The level of community transmission is classified by the CDC as:

1. “None to minimal” is where there is evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations are underway, and no evidence of exposure in large communal settings (e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering);
2. “Moderate” is where there is widespread or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases; or

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/glossary.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1101>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

<sup>10</sup> Answer to question “What is community spread?”, [https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&ei=TMXTXqC7Gt6vvtMP-MG78AE&q=community+transmission+definition&oq=community+transmission+definition&gs\\_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAziECAAQ1AAWABg5EBoAHAAeACAAYQBiAGEAZiBAzAuMZgBAKoBB2d3cy13aXo&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKewigkabqrd7pAhXel3IEHfigDh4Q4dUDCAw&uact=5](https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&ei=TMXTXqC7Gt6vvtMP-MG78AE&q=community+transmission+definition&oq=community+transmission+definition&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAziECAAQ1AAWABg5EBoAHAAeACAAYQBiAGEAZiBAzAuMZgBAKoBB2d3cy13aXo&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKewigkabqrd7pAhXel3IEHfigDh4Q4dUDCAw&uact=5)

3. “Substantial” is where there is large scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.<sup>11</sup>

“COVID-19” means Coronavirus Disease 2019, which is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

“Disinfecting” means using chemicals approved for use against SARS-CoV-2<sup>12</sup>, for example EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection.<sup>13</sup>

“Duration and frequency of employee exposure” means how long (“duration”) and how often (“frequency”) an employee is potentially exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19. Generally, the greater the frequency or length of exposure, the greater the probability is for potential infection to occur. Frequency of exposure is generally more significant for acute acting agents or situations, while duration of exposure is generally more significant for chronic acting agents or situations. An example of an acute SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 situation would be an unprotected customer, patient, or other person coughing or sneezing directly into the face of an employee. An example of a chronic situation would be a job task that requires an employee to interact either for an extended period of time inside six feet with a smaller static group of other employees or persons; or for an extended period of time inside six feet with a larger group of other employees or persons in succession but for periods of shorter duration.

“Economic feasibility” means the employer is financially able to undertake the measures necessary to<sup>14</sup> comply with one or more requirements in this **standard/regulation**. The cost of corrective measures to be taken will not usually be considered as a factor in determining whether a violation of this **standard/regulation** has occurred. If an employer’s level of

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>, Table 3.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

<sup>14</sup> Federal OSHA FOM, Chapter 3, <https://www.osha.gov/enforcement/directives/cpl-02-00-164/chapter-3>

compliance lags significantly behind that of its industry, an employer’s claim of economic infeasibility will not be accepted.<sup>15</sup>

“Elimination” means a method of exposure control that removes the employee completely from exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related workplace hazards and job tasks.

“Engineering control” means the use of substitution, isolation, ventilation, and equipment modification<sup>16</sup> to reduce exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related workplace hazards and job tasks.

“Exposure risk level” means an assessment of the possibility that an employee could be exposed to the hazards associated with SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease. Hazards and job tasks have been divided into four risk exposure levels: “very high”, “high”, “medium”, and “lower”:

“Very high”<sup>17</sup> exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those in places of employment with high potential for employee exposure to known or suspected sources of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease including, but not limited to, during specific medical, postmortem, or laboratory procedures:

1. Aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some dental procedures and exams, or invasive specimen collection) on a known or suspected COVID-19 patient or person;
2. Collecting or handling specimens from a known or suspected COVID-19 patient or person (e.g., manipulating cultures from known or suspected COVID-19 patients);
3. Performing an autopsy, which generally involves aerosol-generating procedures, on the body of a person known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of their death.

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<sup>15</sup> VOSH FOM, Chapter 5, pages 72-73,

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<sup>16</sup> VOSH FOM Chapter 5, page 71,

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 19

“High”<sup>18</sup> exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those in places of employment with high potential for employee exposure inside six feet with known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2 that are not otherwise classified as “very high” exposure risk including, but not limited to:

1. Healthcare (physical and mental health) delivery and support services provided to a known or suspected COVID-19 patient in a hospital like setting, including field hospitals (e.g., doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff who must enter patient rooms or areas);
2. Healthcare (physical and mental) delivery, care, and support services, wellness services, non-medical support services, physical assistance, etc., provided to a known or suspected COVID-19 patient, resident, or other person involving skilled nursing services, outpatient medical services, clinical services, drug treatment programs, medical outreach services<sup>19</sup>, mental health services, home health care, nursing home care, assisted living care, memory care support and services, hospice care, rehabilitation services, primary and specialty medical care, dental care, COVID-19 testing services, contact tracer services, and chiropractic services;
3. First responder services provided by police, fire, paramedic, search and rescue, recovery, and emergency medical services provided to a known or suspected COVID-19 patient, resident, or other person;
4. Medical transport services (loading, transporting, unloading, etc.) provided to known or suspected COVID-19 patients (e.g., ground or air emergency transport, staff, operators, drivers, or pilots, etc.);
5. Mortuary services involved in preparing (e.g., for burial or cremation) the bodies of persons who are known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of their death.

“Medium”<sup>20</sup> exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those not otherwise classified as “very high” or “high” exposure risk in places of employment that require more than

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 19

<sup>19</sup> List of health care coverage taken in part from <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 20

minimal occupational contact inside six feet with other employees, other persons, or the general public who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, but who are not known or suspected COVID-19. “Medium” exposure risk hazards or job tasks may include, but are not limited to operations and services in:

1. Poultry, meat, and seafood processing; agricultural and hand labor; commercial transportation of passengers by air, land, and water; on campus educational settings in schools, colleges, and universities; daycare and afterschool settings; restaurants and bars; grocery stores, convenience store, and food banks; drug stores and pharmacies; manufacturing settings, indoor and outdoor construction settings; correctional facilities, jails, detentions centers, and juvenile detention centers; retail stores; call centers; package processing settings; veterinary settings; personal care, personal grooming , salons, and spas; sports, entertainment, movie, theater, etc., venues ; homeless shelters; fitness, gym, and exercise facilities; airports, and train and bus stations; etc.; and
2. Situations not involving exposure to known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2: hospitals, other healthcare (physical and mental) delivery and support services in a non-hospital setting, wellness services, physical assistance, etc.; skilled nursing facilities, outpatient medical facilities, clinics, drug treatment programs, medical outreach services<sup>21</sup>, non-medical support services, mental health facilities, home health care, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, memory care facilities, hospice care, rehabilitation centers, doctors, dentists, chiropractors, first responders such as police, fire, paramedic and emergency medical services providers, medical transport; contact tracers, etc.

“Lower” exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those not otherwise classified as “very high”, “high”, or “medium” exposure risk that do not require contact inside six feet with persons known to be, or suspected of being, or who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2; nor contact inside six feet with other employees, other persons, or the general public except as otherwise provided in this definition.

**Commented [TP2]:** These workers should be placed the high risk classification at a minimum. Meatpacking plants have become COVID-19 hotspots across the U.S. and there have been specific reports of problems with meatpacking plants in Virginia. We have had reports of workers having trouble receiving information, working in close proximity to each other, increased lines speeds, and lack of training.

<sup>21</sup> List of health care coverage taken in part from <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

Employees in this category have minimal occupational contact with other employees, other persons, or the general public;<sup>22</sup> or are able to achieve minimal occupational contact through the implementation of engineering, administrative and work practice controls, such as, but not limited to:

1. Installation of floor to ceiling physical barriers constructed of impermeable material and not subject to unintentional displacement (e.g., such as clear plastic walls at convenience stores behind which only one employee is working at any one time);
2. Telecommuting;
3. Staggered work shifts;
4. Delivering services remotely by phone, audio, video, mail, package delivery, curbside pickup or delivery, etc.;
5. Mandatory physical distancing of employees from other employees, other persons, and the general public.

Employee use of face coverings for close contact (inside six feet of) with coworkers, customers, or other persons is not an acceptable administrative or work practice control to achieve minimal occupational contact.

“Face covering” means an item normally made of cloth or various other materials with elastic bands or cloth ties to secure over the wearer’s nose and mouth in an effort to potentially contain or reduce the spread of potentially infectious respiratory secretions at the source (i.e., the person’s nose and mouth)<sup>23</sup>. A face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. A face covering is not a surgical/medical procedure mask. A face covering is not subject to testing and approval by a state or government agency, so it is not considered a form of personal protective equipment or respiratory protection equipment under VOSH laws, rules, regulations, and standards.

“Face shield” means a form of personal protective equipment made of transparent, impermeable materials intended to protect the entire face or portions of it from airborne particles.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at pages 18 to 20

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 9

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/eyeandface/ppe/impact.html#faceshields>

“Feasible” means both “technical” and “economic” feasibility as defined in this [standard/regulation](#).

“Filtering facepiece” means a negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

“Hand sanitizer” means an alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol, unless otherwise provided for in this [standard/regulation](#).<sup>25</sup>

“HIPAA” means Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

“Known COVID-19” means a person, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, who has tested positive for COVID-19 and the employer knew or with reasonable diligence should have known that the person has tested positive for COVID-19.

“May be infected with SARS-CoV-2” means any person not currently a known or suspected COVID-19 person, but potentially exposed to SARS-CoV-2 through:

1. Contact inside six feet with a known COVID-19 person within the last 14 days,
2. Contact inside six feet with a suspected COVID-19 person within the last 14 days,
3. Being a resident of a locality, city, town, or county with moderate or substantial SARS-CoV-2 ongoing community transmission, or
4. Having traveled through a locality, city, town, or county, state, or country with moderate or substantial SARS-CoV-2 ongoing community transmission within the last 14 days and had contact with a person inside six feet while doing so.

“Occupational exposure” means the state of being actually or potentially exposed to contact with SARS-CoV-2 virus or COVID-19 disease related hazards during job tasks.

“Personal protective equipment” means equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, biological or other workplace hazards. Personal protective equipment may include items such as gloves, safety glasses, shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, surgical/medical procedure masks, gowns, face shields, coveralls, vests, and full body suits.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 8

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/personalprotectiveequipment/>

“Physical distancing” also called “social distancing” means keeping space between yourself and other persons while conducting work-related activities inside and outside of the physical establishment by staying at least 6 feet from other persons.<sup>27</sup> Physical separation of an employee from other employees or persons by a permanent, solid floor to ceiling wall constitutes physical distancing from an employee or other person stationed on the other side of the wall.

“Respirator” means a protective device that covers the nose and mouth or the entire face or head to guard the wearer against hazardous atmospheres. Respirators are certified for use by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Respirators may be:

1. Tight-fitting, that is, half masks, which cover the mouth and nose, and full face pieces that cover the face from the hairline to below the chin; or
2. Loose-fitting, such as hoods or helmets that cover the head completely.

There are two major classes of respirators:

3. Air-purifying, which remove contaminants from the air; and
4. Atmosphere-supplying, which provide clean, breathable air from an uncontaminated source. As a general rule, atmosphere-supplying respirators are used for more hazardous exposures.<sup>28</sup>

“Respirator user” means an employee who in the scope of their current job may be assigned to tasks which may require the use of a respirator in accordance with this **standard/regulation**.<sup>29</sup>

“SARS-CoV-2” means a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV.<sup>30</sup> Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface.<sup>31</sup> The SARS-CoV-2 causes what has been designated as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“Surgical/Medical procedure mask” means a mask to be worn over the wearer’s nose and mouth that is fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids, and prevents the wearer from exposing

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3079/osha3079.html>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/summary.html>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/types.html>

others in the same fashion. It protects the others from the wearer’s respiratory emissions. It has a loose fitting face seal. It does not provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles. It is considered a form of personal protective equipment but is not considered respiratory protection equipment under VOSH laws, rules, regulations, and standards. Testing and approval is cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).<sup>32</sup>

“Suspected COVID-19” means a person that is COVID-19 symptomatic.

“Symptomatic” means the employee is experiencing symptoms similar to those attributed to COVID-19 including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Symptoms may appear in 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.<sup>33</sup>

“Technical feasibility” means the existence of technical know-how as to materials and methods available or adaptable to specific circumstances which can be applied to one or more requirements in this **standard/regulation** with a reasonable possibility that employee exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 hazards will be reduced.<sup>34</sup> If an employer’s level of compliance lags significantly behind that of their industry, allegations of technical infeasibility will not be accepted.<sup>35</sup>

“VOSH” means Virginia Occupational Safety and Health.

“Work practice control” means a type of administrative control by which the employer modifies the manner in which the employee performs assigned work. Such modification may result in a reduction of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related workplace

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandDifferenceInfographic-508.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

<sup>34</sup> VOSH FOM, Chapter 5, pages 71-72,

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<sup>35</sup> VOSH FOM Chapter 5, pages 71-73,

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hazards and job tasks through such methods as changing work habits, improving sanitation and hygiene practices, or making other changes in the way the employee performs the job.<sup>36</sup>

**§40 Mandatory requirements for all employers.<sup>37</sup>**

Employers in all exposure risk levels shall ensure compliance with the following requirements to protect employees from workplace exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the COVID-19 disease:

- A. Exposure assessment and determination, notification requirements, and employee access to exposure and medical records.
  1. Employers shall assess their workplace for hazards and job tasks that can potentially expose employees to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19. Employers shall classify each employee according to the hazards they are potentially exposed to and the job tasks they undertake and ensure compliance with the applicable sections of this **standard/regulation** for “very high,” “high,” “medium,” or “lower” risk levels of exposure.
  2. Employers shall inform employees of the methods of and encourage employees to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 if they suspect possible exposure or are experiencing signs of an oncoming illness.<sup>38</sup>
  3. Employers shall develop and implement policies and procedures for employees to report when they have tested positive for anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies through serologic testing:
    - a. Serologic test results shall not be used to make decisions about returning employees to work who were previously classified as known or suspected COVID-19.
    - b. Serologic test results shall not be used to make decisions concerning employees that were previously classified as known or suspected COVID-19 about grouping, residing in or being admitted to congregate settings, such as schools, dormitories, etc.

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<sup>36</sup> VOSH FOM Chapter 5, page 71,

[https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\181\GDoc\\_DOLI\\_5354\\_v6.pdf](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\181\GDoc_DOLI_5354_v6.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Partial source for this section: <https://labor.vermont.gov/vosha>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 9

c. Employees who test positive by serologic testing and were not otherwise previously classified as known or suspected COVID-19 may go to work provided they are not COVID-19 symptomatic and follow general recommendations to prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2 while at work (i.e., self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; wash hands often; cover coughs and sneezes; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoid close contact with other persons inside six feet; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily).

d. There shall be no change in use of PPE by employees who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

4. Employers shall develop and implement policies and procedures for employees to report when they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.<sup>39</sup> Such employees shall be designated by the employer as “suspected COVID-19”.

5. Employers shall not permit known COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 employees or other persons to report to or be allowed to remain at work or on a job site until cleared for return to work or the job site (see §40.B). Nothing in this standard/regulation shall prohibit an employer from permitting a known or suspected COVID-19 employee from engaging in teleworking or other form of work isolation that would not result in potentially exposing other employees to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

5. To the extent feasible and permitted by law, including but not limited to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act<sup>40</sup>, employers shall ensure that sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies.<sup>41</sup>

6. Employers shall discuss with subcontractors, and companies that provide contract or temporary employees about the importance of suspected COVID-19 and known COVID-19 subcontractor, contract, or temporary employees staying home and encourage them to develop non-punitive sick leave policies. Known COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 9

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employer-paid-leave>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 11

subcontractor, contract, or temporary employees shall not report to or be allowed to remain at work or on a job site until cleared for return to work.

7. If an employer is notified of a COVID-19 positive test for one of its own employees, a subcontractor employee, contract, temporary employee, or other person who was present at the place of employment within the previous 14 days from the date of positive test, the employer shall notify:

a. Its own employees within 24 hours of discovery of their possible exposure while keeping confidential the identity of the known COVID-19 person in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable Virginia laws and regulations;

b. In the same manner as §40.A.7.a other employers whose employees were present at the work site during the same time period; and

c. In the same manner as §40.A.7.a the building/facility owner.

8. Each employer shall ensure employee access to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related exposure and medical records in accordance with the standard applicable to its industry.<sup>42 43 44</sup> Employers in the agriculture, public sector marine terminal, and public sector longshoring industries shall ensure employee access to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related exposure and medical records in accordance with §1910.1020, Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records.

#### B. Return to Work.

1. The employer shall develop and implement policies and procedures for known COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 employees to return to work using either a symptom-based or test-based strategy depending on local healthcare and testing circumstances. While an employer may rely on other reasonable options, a policy that involves consultation with appropriate healthcare professionals concerning when an employee

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<sup>42</sup> General Industry, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1020>

<sup>43</sup> Construction, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.33>

<sup>44</sup> Shipyard Employment, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.1020>

has satisfied the symptoms based strategy requirements in §40.B.1.a will constitute compliance with the requirements of §40.B.<sup>45</sup>

a. For suspected or known COVID-19 employees the symptom-based strategy excludes an employee from returning to work until at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and, at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

b. The test-based strategy excludes an employee from returning to work until resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

i. If a known or suspected COVID-19 employee refuses to be tested, then the employer shall comply with §40.B.1.a symptom-based strategy.

ii. For purposes of this section, COVID-19 testing is considered a “medical examination” under Va. Code §40.1-28.<sup>46</sup> The employer shall not require the employee to pay for the cost of COVID-19 testing for return to work determinations.

2. The employer shall develop and implement policies and procedures for known asymptomatic COVID-19 employees to return to work using either a time-based or test-based strategy depending on local healthcare and testing circumstances.<sup>47</sup> While an employer may rely on other reasonable options, a policy that involves consultation with appropriate healthcare professionals concerning when an employee has satisfied the time based strategy requirements in §40.B.2.a will constitute compliance with the requirements of §40.B.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

<sup>46</sup> <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/40.1-28/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

- a. The time-based strategy excludes an employee from returning to work until at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based or test-based strategy shall be used.
- b. The test-based strategy excludes an employee from returning to work until negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).
  - i. If a known asymptomatic COVID-19 employee refuses to be tested, then the employer shall comply with §40.B.2.a symptom-based strategy.
  - ii. For purposes of this section, COVID-19 testing is considered a “medical examination” under Va. Code §40.1-28.<sup>49</sup> The employer shall not require the employee to pay for the cost of COVID-19 testing for return to work determinations.
- C. Unless otherwise provided in this **standard/regulation**, employers shall ensure that employees observe physical distancing while on the job and during paid breaks on the employer’s property.
- D. Access to common areas, breakrooms, or lunchrooms shall be closed or controlled.
  - 1. If the nature of an employer’s work or the work area does not allow employees to consume meals in the employee’s workspace while observing physical distancing, an employer may designate a common area, room, or similar area where meals may be safely consumed with controlled access, provided the following conditions are met:
    - a. At the entrance(s) of the designated common area or room the employer shall clearly post the policy limiting the occupancy of the space, and the minimum physical distancing, hand washing/hand sanitizing, and space disinfecting requirements.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/40.1-28/>

- b. The employer shall limit occupancy of the designated common area or room so that occupants can maintain physical distancing from each other. The employer shall enforce the occupancy limit.
  - c. Employees shall be required to wipe down their area prior to leaving, or the employer may provide for disinfecting of the area at regular intervals throughout the day, and between shifts of employees using the same work area (i.e., where an employee or groups of employees have a designated lunch period and the area can be cleaned in between occupancies).
  - d. Hand washing facilities and hand sanitizer are available to employees
- E. When multiple employees are occupying a vehicle for work purposes, the employer shall ensure compliance with respiratory protection and personal protective equipment standards applicable to its industry. Employers shall also ensure compliance with mandatory requirements of any applicable executive order or order of public health emergency.
- F. Where the nature of an employee’s work or the work area does not allow them to observe physical distancing requirements, employers shall ensure compliance with respiratory protection and personal protective equipment standards applicable to its industry. Employers shall also ensure compliance with mandatory requirements of any applicable executive order or order of public health emergency.
- G. Nothing in this section shall require the use of a respirator, surgical/medical procedure mask, or face covering by any employee for whom doing so would be contrary to their health or safety because of a medical condition; however, nothing in this **standard/regulation** shall negate an employer’s obligations to comply with personal protective equipment and respiratory protection standards applicable to its industry.<sup>50</sup>
- H. Requests for religious waivers from the required use of respirators, surgical/medical procedure masks, or face coverings will be handled in accordance with the requirements of

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<sup>50</sup> General Industry §§1910.132, 1910.133, 1910.138, and 1910.134; Construction §§1926.28, 1926.95, 1926.102, and 1926.103; Public Sector Shipyard §§1915.152, 1915.153, 1915.157, and 1915.154; Public Sector Marine Terminals §§ 1917.91, 1917.95, and 1917.1(a)(2)(x), 1917.92; and Public Sector Longshoring §§1918.101, 1918.102.

applicable federal and state law, standards, regulations and the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions, after consultation with the Office of the Attorney General.

I. Sanitation and Disinfecting.

1. In addition to the requirements contained in this [standard/regulation](#), employers shall comply with the VOSH sanitation [standard/regulation](#) applicable to its industry.<sup>51 52</sup>

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2. Employees that interact with customers, the general public, contractors, and other persons, shall be provided with and immediately use disinfectant supplies to clean surfaces contacted during the interaction.

3. In addition to the requirements contained in this [standard/regulation](#), employers shall comply with the VOSH hazard communication standard applicable to its industry.<sup>58</sup>

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4. Areas in the place of employment where known COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19 employees or other persons accessed or worked shall be disinfected prior to allowing other employees access to the areas. This requirement shall not apply if the area(s) in question have been unoccupied for seven or more days.

5. All common spaces, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors shall at a minimum be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each shift. Where feasible, shared tools, equipment, and vehicles shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to transfer from one employee to another.

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<sup>51</sup> General Industry: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.141>

<sup>52</sup> Temporary Labor Camps: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.142>

<sup>53</sup> Agriculture, Field Sanitation: <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+16VAC25-180-10>

<sup>54</sup> Construction: <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+16VAC25-160-10>

<sup>55</sup> Public Sector Shipyards: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.88>

<sup>56</sup> Public Sector Marine Terminals: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1917/1917.127>

<sup>57</sup> Public Sector Longshoring: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1918/1918.95>

<sup>58</sup> General Industry, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200>

<sup>59</sup> Construction, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.59>

<sup>60</sup> Agriculture, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1928/1928.21>

<sup>61</sup> Public Sector Shipyard Employment, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.1200>

<sup>62</sup> Public Sector Marine Terminals, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1917/1917.28>

<sup>63</sup> Public Sector Longshoring, <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1918/1918.90>

6. Employers shall ensure only disinfecting chemicals and products are used that are approved by the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and listed on List N for use against SARS-CoV-2 and emerging viral pathogens.<sup>64</sup>

7. Employers shall ensure that the manufacturer's instructions for use of all disinfecting chemicals and products are complied with (e.g., concentration, application method, contact time, PPE, etc.).<sup>65</sup>

8. Employees shall have easy, frequent access, and permission to use soap and water and hand sanitizer during the duration of work. Employees assigned to a work station where job tasks require frequent interaction inside six feet with other persons shall be provided with hand sanitizer at their work station. Mobile crews shall be provided with hand sanitizer for use during the duration of work at a work site and shall have transportation immediately available to nearby toilet facilities and handwashing facilities which meet the requirements of VOSH laws, standards and regulations dealing with sanitation.

9. It is recognized that various hazards or job tasks at the same place of employment can be designated as "very high", "high", "medium", or "lower" as presenting potential exposure risk for purposes of application of the requirements of this **standard/regulation**. In situations other than emergencies, the employer shall ensure that protective measures are put in place to prevent cross-contamination.

J. Anti-Discrimination.

The employer shall ensure compliance with the anti-discriminations provisions of **§90**.

K. Unless otherwise provided in this **standard/regulation**, when engineering, work practice, and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers shall provide personal protective equipment to their employees and ensure its proper use in accordance with VOSH laws, standards, and regulations applicable to personal protective equipment, including respiratory protection equipment.

**§50 Requirements for hazards or job tasks classified at "very high" or "high" exposure risk.**

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

The following requirements for employers with hazards or job tasks classified as “very high” or “high” exposure risk apply in addition to requirements contained in §§40, 70, and 80.

A. Engineering Controls.

1. Ensure appropriate air-handling systems:
  - a. Are installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions in healthcare facilities and other places of employment treating, caring for, or housing persons with known or suspected COVID-19, and
  - b. Comply with minimum American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards 62.1 and 62.2 (ASHRAE 2019a, 2019b), which include requirements for outdoor air ventilation in most residential and nonresidential spaces, and ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 (ASHRAE 2017a) covers both outdoor and total air ventilation in healthcare facilities. Based on risk assessments or owner project requirements, designers of new and existing facilities can go beyond the minimum requirements of these standards.<sup>66</sup>
2. For employers not covered by §50.A.1, ensure that air-handling systems where installed are appropriate to address the SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related hazards and job tasks that occur at the workplace:
  - a. Are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions; and
  - b. Comply with §50.A.1.b.
3. Hospitalized patients with known or suspected COVID-19 shall, where feasible and available, be placed in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR).
4. Use AIIR rooms when available for performing aerosol-generating procedures on patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
5. For postmortem activities, employers shall use autopsy suites or other similar isolation facilities when performing aerosol-generating procedures on the bodies of known or suspected COVID-19 persons at the time of their death.

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<sup>66</sup> [https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd\\_infectiousaerosols\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_infectiousaerosols_2020.pdf)

6. Use special precautions associated with Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3), as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Publication No. (CDC) 21-1112 “Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories” (Dec. 2009), which is hereby incorporated by reference, when handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients or persons.<sup>67</sup>
  7. To the extent feasible, employers shall install physical barriers, such as clear plastic sneeze guards, where such barriers will aid in mitigating the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 virus transmission.
- B. Administrative and Work Practice Controls.
1. To the extent feasible, prior to the commencement of each work shift, prescreening or surveying shall be required to verify each covered employee is not COVID-19 symptomatic.
  2. If working in a healthcare facility, follow existing guidelines and facility standards of practice for identifying and isolating infected persons and for protecting employees.
  3. Develop and implement policies that reduce exposure, such as cohorting (i.e., grouping) COVID-19 patients when single rooms are not available.
  4. Limit non-employee access to the place of employment or restrict access to only certain workplace areas to reduce the risk of exposure. An employer’s compliance with occupancy limits contained in any applicable executive order or order of public health emergency will constitute compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.
  5. Post signs requesting patients and family members to immediately report symptoms of respiratory illness on arrival at the healthcare facility and use disposable face masks.
  6. Offer enhanced medical monitoring of employees during COVID-19 outbreaks.
  7. Provide all employees with job-specific education and training on preventing transmission of COVID-19, including initial and routine/refresher training in accordance with §80.

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<sup>67</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at pages 23-24

8. Ensure that psychological and behavioral support is available to address employee stress **at no cost to the employee**.<sup>68</sup>

9. In health care settings, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol<sup>69</sup> to employees at fixed work sites, and to emergency responders and other personnel for decontamination in the field when working away from fixed work sites.<sup>70</sup>

10. Provide face coverings to suspected COVID-19 non-employees to contain respiratory secretions until they are able to leave the site (i.e., for medical evaluation/care or to return home).

11. Where feasible:

- a. Use verbal announcements, signage, and visual cues to promote physical distancing;
- b. Implement flexible worksites (e.g., telework);
- c. Implement flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts);
- d. Increase physical distancing between employees at the worksite to six feet;
- e. Increase physical distancing between employees and other persons to six feet;
- f. Decrease worksite density by limiting the number of non-employees accessing the worksite at any one time;
- g. Implement flexible meeting and travel options (e.g., use telephone or video conferencing instead of in person meetings; postpone non-essential travel or events; etc.);
- h. Deliver services remotely (e.g. phone, video, internet, etc.);
- i. Deliver products through curbside pick-up;
- j. Reconfigure and alternate usage of spaces where employees congregate, including lunch and break rooms, locker rooms, time clocks, etc.

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<sup>68</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 24

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> at page 24

C. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

1. Employers covered by this section and not otherwise covered by the VOSH Standards for General Industry (Part 1910), shall comply with the following requirements for a SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 hazard assessment, and personal protective equipment selection:<sup>71</sup>

a. The employer shall assess the workplace to determine if SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 hazards or job tasks are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). If such hazards or job tasks are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall:

- i. Except as otherwise required in the **standard/regulation**, select, and have each affected employee use the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 hazards identified in the hazard assessment;
- ii. Communicate selection decisions to each affected employee; and,
- iii. Select PPE that properly fits each affected employee.

2. The employer shall verify that the required SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 workplace hazard assessment has been performed through a written certification that identifies the workplace evaluated; the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed; the date(s) of the hazard assessment; and, which identifies the document as a certification of hazard assessment.

3. Unless specifically addressed by an industry specific standard applicable to the employer and providing for PPE protections to employees from the SARS-COV-2 virus or COVID-19 disease (e.g., Parts 1926, 1928, 1915, 1917, or 1918), the requirements of §§1910.132 (General requirements) and 1910.134 (Respiratory protection) shall apply to all employers for that purpose.

4. The employer shall implement a respiratory protection program in accordance with §1910.134 (b) through (d) (except (d)(1)(iii)), and (f) through (m), which covers each employee required to use a respirator.

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<sup>71</sup> Based on 1910.132(d), <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>

5. Unless contraindicated by a hazard assessment and equipment selection requirements in §50.C.1 above, employees classified as “very high” or “high” exposure risk shall be provided with and wear gloves, a gown, a face shield or goggles, and either a surgical/medical procedure mask or a respirator when in contact with or inside six feet of patients or other persons known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2. Gowns shall be large enough to cover the areas requiring protection.

D. Employee training shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of §80 of this standard/regulation.

**§60 Requirements for hazards or job tasks classified at “medium” exposure risk.**

The following requirements for employers with hazards or job tasks classified as “medium” exposure risk apply in addition to requirements contained in §§40, 70, and 80.

A. Engineering Controls.

1. Ensure that air-handling systems where installed are appropriate to address the SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related hazards and job tasks that occur at the workplace:

- a. Are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, and
- b. Comply with minimum American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards 62.1 and 62.2 (ASHRAE 2019a, 2019b), which include requirements for outdoor air ventilation in most residential and nonresidential spaces, and ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 (ASHRAE 2017a) covers both outdoor and total air ventilation in healthcare facilities. Based on risk assessments or owner project requirements, designers of new and existing facilities can go beyond the minimum requirements of these standards.<sup>72</sup>
- a. To the extent feasible, employers shall install physical barriers, such as clear plastic sneeze guards, where such barriers will aid in mitigating the spread of SARS-CoV2 and COVID-19 virus transmission.

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<sup>72</sup> [https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd\\_infectiousaerosols\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_infectiousaerosols_2020.pdf)

B. Administrative and Work Practice Controls.

1. To the extent feasible, employers shall implement the following administrative and work practice controls:

- a. Prior to the commencement of each work shift, prescreening or surveying shall be required to verify each covered employee is not COVID-19 symptomatic;
- b. Provide face coverings to suspected COVID-19 non-employees to contain respiratory secretions until they are able to leave the site (i.e., for medical evaluation/care or to return home);
- c. Limit non-employee access to the place of employment or restrict access to only certain workplace areas to reduce the risk of exposure. An employer's compliance with occupancy limits contained in any applicable executive order or order of public health emergency will constitute compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.
- d. Implement flexible worksites (e.g., telework);
- e. Implement flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts);
- f. Increase physical distancing between employees at the worksite to six feet;
- g. Increase physical distancing between employees and other persons, including customers (e.g., drive-through, partitions) to six feet;
- h. Decrease worksite density by limiting the number of non-employees accessing the worksite at any one time;
- i. Implement flexible meeting and travel options (e.g., use telephone or video conferencing instead of in person meetings; postpone non-essential travel or events; etc.);
- j. Deliver services remotely (e.g. phone, video, internet, etc.);
- k. Deliver products through curbside pick-up or delivery;
- l. Reconfigure and alternate usage of spaces where employees congregate, including lunch and break rooms, locker rooms, time clocks, etc.;<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Source: LAJC Exhibit A

m. Use verbal announcements, signage, floor markings, overhead signs, and visual cues to promote physical distancing.

C. Personal Protective Equipment.

1. Employers covered by this section and not otherwise covered by the VOSH Standards for General Industry (Part 1910), shall comply with the following requirements for a SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related hazard assessment, and personal protective equipment selection:<sup>74</sup>

a. The employer shall assess the workplace to determine if SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 hazards or job tasks are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). If such hazards or job tasks are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall:

- i. Except as otherwise required in the standard [regulation], select, and have each affected employee use, the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 hazards identified in the hazard assessment;
- ii. Communicate selection decisions to each affected employee; and
- iii. Select PPE that properly fits each affected employee.

2. The employer shall verify that the required SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 workplace hazard assessment has been performed through a written certification that identifies the workplace evaluated; the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed; the date(s) of the hazard assessment; and, which identifies the document as a certification of hazard assessment.

3. Unless specifically addressed by an industry specific standard applicable to the employer and providing for PPE protections to employees from the SARS-COV-2 virus or COVID-19 disease (e.g., Parts 1926, 1928, 1915, 1917, or 1918), the requirements of §§1910.132 (General requirements) and 1910.134 (Respiratory protection) shall apply to all employers for that purpose.

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<sup>74</sup> Based on 1910.132(d), <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>

4. PPE ensembles for employees in the “medium” exposure risk category will vary by work task, the results of the employer’s hazard assessment, and the types of exposures employees have on the job.

**§70 Infectious disease preparedness and response plan.<sup>75</sup>**

- A. Employers with hazards or job tasks classified as:
  - 1. “Very high,” and “high,” shall develop and implement a written Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan;
  - 2. “Medium” with eleven (11) or more employees shall develop and implement a written Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan.
- B. The plan and training requirements tied to the plan shall only apply to those employees classified as “very high,” “high,” and “medium” covered by this section.
- C. Employers shall designate a person to be responsible for implementing their Plan. The Plan shall:
  - 1. Identify the name(s) or titles(s) of the person(s) responsible for administering the Plan. This person shall be knowledgeable in infection control principles and practices as they apply to the facility, service or operation.
  - 2. Consider and address the level(s) of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 risk associated with various places of employment, the hazards employees are exposed to and job tasks employees perform at those sites. Such considerations shall include:
    - a. Where, how, and to what sources of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 might employees be exposed, including:
      - i. The general public, customers, other employees, patients, and other persons;
      - ii. Known or suspected COVID-19 persons or those at particularly high risk of COVID-19 infection (e.g., local, state, national, and international travelers who have visited locations with ongoing COVID-19 community transmission, healthcare employees who have had unprotected exposures to known COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 persons); and

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<sup>75</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>, starting at page 7

- iii. Situations where employees work more than one job with different employers and encounter hazards or engage in job tasks that present a “very high,” “high,” or “medium” level of exposure risk.
  - b. To the extent permitted by law, including HIPAA, employees’ individual risk factors (e.g., older age; presence of chronic medical conditions, including immunocompromising conditions; pregnancy; etc.).
  - c. Controls necessary to address those risks.
- 3. Consider contingency plans for situations that may arise as a result of outbreaks, such as:
  - a. Increased rates of employee absenteeism;
  - b. The need for physical distancing, staggered work shifts, downsizing operations, delivering services remotely, and other exposure-reducing workplace control measures such as elimination/substitution, engineering controls, administrative and work practice controls, personal protective equipment, including respirators, surgical/medical procedure masks, and face coverings;
  - c. Options for conducting essential operations with a reduced workforce, including cross-training employees across different jobs in order to continue operations or deliver surge services; and
  - d. Interrupted supply chains or delayed deliveries.
- 4. Identify basic infection prevention measures to be implemented:
  - a. Promote frequent and thorough hand washing, including by providing employees, customers, visitors, the general public, and other persons to the place of employment with a place to wash their hands. If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide hand sanitizers.
  - b. Maintain regular housekeeping practices, including routine disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment.

5. Provide for the prompt identification and isolation of known COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19 employees away from work, including procedures for employees to report when they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
6. Address infectious disease preparedness and response with outside businesses, including, but not limited to, subcontractors that enter the place of employment, businesses that provide or contract or temporary employees to the employer, as well as other persons accessing the place of employment to comply with the requirements of this **standard/regulation** and the employer's plan.
7. Provide for training of employees classified as "very high" or "high" risk on the hazards associated with SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, the requirements of this **standard/regulation**, and requirements of the employer's Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan.

#### §80 Training.

- A. Employers with hazards or job tasks ~~classified at "very high" or "high" that create potential COVID-19~~-exposure risk shall provide training to all employee(s) regardless of employee risk classification on the hazards and characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of SARS-CoV-2 and symptoms of COVID-19 and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.<sup>76</sup>
- B. Employees shall be trained on:
  1. The requirements of this **standard/regulation**;
  2. The characteristics and methods of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus;
  3. The symptoms of the COVID-19 disease;
  4. Awareness of the ability of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 persons to transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus;
  5. Safe and healthy work practices, including but not limited to, physical distancing, disinfection procedures, disinfecting frequency, noncontact methods of greeting, etc.;

**Commented [TP3]:** All employees with potential exposure must receive training.

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<sup>76</sup> 1926.503(a)(1)

6. PPE:
    - a. When PPE is required;
    - b. What PPE is required;
    - c. How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE;
    - d. When limitations of PPE; and
    - e. The proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of PPE;<sup>77</sup>
  7. The anti-discrimination provisions of this standard/regulation in §90; and
  8. The employer's Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan, where applicable.
- C. Employers covered by §50 of this standard/regulation shall verify compliance with §80.A by preparing a written certification record for those employees exposed to hazards or job tasks classified at "very high," "high," or "medium" exposure risk levels. The written certification record shall contain the name or other unique identifier of the employee trained, the trained employee's physical or electronic signature, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer. If the employer relies on training conducted by another employer or completed prior to the effective date of this standard/regulation, the certification record shall indicate the date the employer determined the prior training was adequate rather than the date of actual training.<sup>78</sup>
- D. The latest training certification shall be maintained.<sup>79</sup>
- E. "Retraining." When the employer has reason to believe that any affected employee who has already been trained does not have the understanding and skill required by §80.A, the employer shall retrain each such employee. Circumstances where retraining is required include, but are not limited to, situations where:
1. Changes in the workplace, SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 hazards exposed to or job tasks performed render previous training obsolete;

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<sup>77</sup> Source: 1910.134(f), <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>

<sup>78</sup> 1926.503(b)(1)

<sup>79</sup> 1926.503(b)(2)

2. Changes are made to the employer's Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan; or
3. Inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of workplace control measures indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill.<sup>80</sup>

**§90 Discrimination against an employee for exercising rights under this standard/regulation is prohibited.**

A. No person shall discharge or in any way discriminate against an employee because the employee has exercised rights under the safety and health provisions of this standard/regulation or Title 40.1 of the Code of Virginia for themselves or others.

B. No person shall discharge or in any way discriminate against an employee who voluntarily provides and wears their own personal protective equipment, including but not limited to a respirator, face mask, face shield, or gloves, if such equipment is not provided by the employer,<sup>81</sup> provided that the PPE does not create a greater hazard to the employee, or create a serious hazard for other employees.

C. No person shall discharge or in any way discriminate against an employee who raises a reasonable concern about infection control related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease to the employer, the employer's agent, other employees, a government agency, or to the public such as through print, online, social, or any other media.<sup>82</sup>

D. Add a section of cross-reference employees' right to refuse unsafe work.  
C.E.

**Commented [TP4]:** A.Recommendation: Include a cross-reference to existing Federal OSHA rule or VA equivalent rule to refuse unsafe work. <https://www.osha.gov/right-to-refuse.html> or <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+16VAC25-60-110&000+reg+16VAC25-60-110> <https://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh-programs/whistleblower/> (Refusal to Work)

<sup>80</sup> 1926.503(c)

<sup>81</sup> Source: LAJC Exhibit A with modification

<sup>82</sup> Source: LAJC Exhibit A with modification