

Comments to Final Permanent Standard for Virus that Causes COVID-19, 16VAC-25-220

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VIA Email: jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov; princy.doss@doli.virginia.gov

Jay Withrow, Director

Division of Legal Support, ORA, OPPPI, and OWP

Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

600 East Main Street, Suite 207

Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Comments on Final Permanent Standard (FPS)

Dear Director Withrow:

I am writing as Associate Vice President and COVID Director for George Mason University (Mason) to respectfully comment on the Final Permanent Standard (FPS) for Infectious Disease Prevention of the SARS-CoV02 that causes COVID-19, § 16 VAC 25-220, as adopted on June 29, 2021. Mason is grateful for the many hours of work the Safety and Health Codes Board has devoted to this issue over the last year and takes seriously the responsibility of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our faculty, staff, students, and community.

Since March 2020, Mason has implemented policies and procedures to protect our community (employees, students, contractors, visitors, and the surrounding community) which adhere to the guidance from the CDC, VDH, our local health departments, Governor Northam, and others. We are committed to the health and safety of our community.

We urge the adoption of Governor Northam's proposed substitute language for 16VAC25-220-10.E which would allow institutions of higher education to follow CDC guidelines in concert with the FPS standards to be in compliance with the Department's regulations as the CDC guidance continues to evolve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Julie Zobel, PhD

Associate Vice President & COVID Director

Safety, Emergency, and Enterprise Risk Management

George Mason University