

## MiOSHA Issues New Workplace Safety Orders

**October 15, 2020**

**LANSING, Mich.** — The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) within the Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) is one of the first state OSHA programs to promulgate rules which clarify the safety requirements employers must follow to protect their employees from COVID-19. Governor Gretchen Whitmer today signed her concurrence of the need for a comprehensive set of Emergency Rules that will help protect Michigan workers, businesses, customers and communities from the spread of COVID-19.

“While most Michigan job providers are doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19, these rules provide them with clarity regarding the necessary requirements to keep their workplaces safe and their employees healthy,” said **Gov. Whitmer**. “I will continue to work around the clock with my partners in labor and business to ensure protections for every Michigan worker.”

Under the Emergency Rules, businesses that resume in-person work must, among other things, have a written COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and provide thorough training to their employees that covers, at a minimum, workplace infection-control practices, the proper use of personal protection equipment (PPE), steps workers must take to notify the business or operation of any symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, and how to report unsafe working conditions.

MIOSHA’s Emergency Rules implement workplace safeguards for all Michigan businesses and specific requirements for industries, including manufacturing, construction, retail, health care, exercise facilities, restaurants and bars.

The rules establish workplace safety requirements and employers should coordinate these requirements with the [Emergency Order](#) issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services restricting gathering sizes, requiring face coverings in public spaces and childcare facilities, placing capacity limitations on stores, bars and other public venues and providing safer workplaces.

“Small businesses owners are dedicated to providing safe workplaces. Consistent, practical, and clear rules are important to achieving that goal,” said Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan. “We welcome the initiation of the departmental rule-making process to establish predicable and well defined expectations.”

A set of online resources at [Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety) provides businesses with the guidelines they and their employees must follow and includes a [sample COVID-19 preparedness and response plan](#) and a [reopening checklist](#) to help businesses put safeguards in place. Businesses can also find posters for employees and customers, factsheets and educational videos.

To enhance MIOSHA's consultative services, the [newly launched MIOSHA Ambassador Program](#) will send safety and health experts to businesses statewide now to offer education and support, with a focus on workplaces with a higher risk of community transmission. To request consultation, education and training services, call 517-284-7720 or online at [MIOSHA Request for Consultative Assistance](#).

For more information about MIOSHA's safety and health guidelines to protect Michigan's workforce during the pandemic, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety). Employers and employees with questions regarding workplace safety and health may contact MIOSHA using the new hotline at **855-SAFE-C19 (855-723-3219)**.

**To report health and safety concerns in the workplace, go to [Michigan.gov/MIOSHacomplaint](https://Michigan.gov/MIOSHacomplaint).** To view the

Emergency Rules, click the link below:

- [MIOSHA Emergency Rules 10-14-20.pdf](#)

To view the Emergency Rules infographic, click [here](#).