



ARBILL NEWSLETTER VOL. 008

## THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER PROTECTING WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

President Biden's Executive Order – **Protecting Worker Health and Safety** was signed on **January 21, 2021** which leads the way for COVID-19 protection and prevention requirements in the workplace. This **includes the consideration of Emergency Temporary Standards by March 15, 2021** and new guidance on workforce protection measures.

Key takeaways from the Executive Order that can impact employers include:

- **OSHA must issue revised guidance**, within 2 weeks from EO, to employers on COVID workplace safety;
- OSHA must CONSIDER instituting **ETS including masks use in the workplace**. If considered necessary, issue ETS by March 15, 2021;
- **Review of enforcement measures** and identify short, medium and long term changes needed;
- Launch a national program to focus **OSHA enforcement efforts related to COVID** on violations that put the largest number of employees at risk;
- Partner with Department of Labor Office of Public Affairs to **conduct multilingual outreach efforts** on worker education;
- OSHA to **review state plans** to ensure they adequately protect employees from COVID-19 and are consistent with any revised guidance or ETS;
- Work with OSHA state governments to **ensure public employee safety and health** including public sector workers;
- All agencies (**DoA, DOL, DHHS, DOT, DOE and others**) explore mechanisms to protect workers not protected under the OSH-Act so they remain safe and healthy from COVID;
- **MSHA must CONSIDER whether ETS on COVID is applicable** and if such standards are consistent with applicable laws;

**Four states have already issued state specific Emergency Temporary Standards** including **CA, VA, OR** and **MI**.

A federal issued ETS would mean **employers in all states will have to implement protection and prevention measures** including conducting risk assessments, implementing a prevention plan, identifying testing measures, instituting employee pay and leave, recordkeeping and reporting requirements and more.

Arbill's EHS Managed Services team of industry specialists are staying on top of the current COVID-19 information risks and regulation changes as they arise.

We are taking steps to help you implement a COVID-19 Prevention and Protection Program if an ETS is issued. Whether you need

### Prevention Plan Development Site Risk Assessments COVID and Infection Control Training

Arbill has solutions to ensure you are in compliance and your workforce remains safe and healthy.

Contact our EHS Managed Services Team to request EHS Services or Training.

[CONTACT US](#)



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