

COVID-19 At Work:

OSHA SAFE WORKPLACE REGULATIONS

The Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970, Section 5, contains the following general rule for all workplaces:



“Each employer...shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees...”

Specifically, as to COVID-19, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has stated as follows:



“Employers are obligated to provide their workers with PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] needed to keep them safe while performing their jobs. The types of PPE required during a COVID-19 outbreak will be based on the risk of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 while working and job tasks that may lead to exposure.”¹

**The full range of OSHA PPE requirements can be found on its website at:
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/infectious_diseases.html**

Several OSHA standards and directives are directly applicable to protecting healthcare workers against transmission of infectious diseases:



OSHA’s [Bloodborne Pathogens standard \(29 CFR 1910.1030\)](#), which provides protection of workers from exposures to blood and body fluids that may contain bloodborne infectious agents



OSHA’s [Personal Protective Equipment standard \(29 CFR 1910.132\)](#) and OSHA’s [Respiratory Protection standard \(29 CFR 1910.134\)](#), which provide protection for workers when exposed to contact, droplet and airborne transmissible infectious agents

1. Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (OSHA 3990-03 2020), <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>



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