



A Tribute to Our Volunteers

When the WHO declared the COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2020, occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professionals swiftly mobilized. AIHA members like you worked all hours of the day and night to draft guidance documents, fact sheets, posters, and infographics. You spoke with the media, contacted policymakers, shared best practices, and spread awareness of AIHA's resources. You helped personal protective equipment (PPE) donations reach essential workers. You addressed questions about PPE, disinfection, and so much more—**all on your own time.**

One year later, as the world reaches a new “normal,” AIHA volunteers continue to develop resources to reflect evolving science. **This booklet celebrates the hundreds of generous AIHA volunteers who raised awareness of the OEHS profession and our mission-critical role in fighting the pandemic.**

Thank you.

We Are AIHA.

[aiha.org](https://www.aiha.org)



COVID-19 Resources from AIHA



Thanks to our robust and prolific volunteer community, AIHA has been able to assemble a library of science-based, peer-reviewed guidelines on various technical topics related to the control and mitigation of SARS-CoV-2. These include the application of engineering controls such as ventilation, enhanced filtration, and physical barriers; the use of germicidal ultraviolet radiation; enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices; and so many more topics relevant to issues that the public and the OEHS community face while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. AIHA's guidelines and other resources can be found at bit.ly/aiha-pub-resources.

- Guidance Documents for OEHS Professionals:** AIHA Volunteer Committees published guidelines including *Effective and Safe Practices*, *Guidance for Custodians, Cleaning, and Maintenance Staff*; *Employers Guide to COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection in Non-Healthcare Workplaces*; *Focus on Construction Health: COVID-19*; *Recovering from COVID-19 Building Closures*; *Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 Using Engineering Controls*, with supplement document; *Use of Real Time Detection Systems to Protect the Public During COVID-19*; and *Workplace Cleaning for COVID-19*. Most of AIHA guidance documents are also available in Spanish.
- Infographics:** Including one on the safe use of UVC radiation, one on proper respirator use for healthcare workers and first responders, and one on the ergonomics of working from home. Most of these are also available in Spanish.
- White papers:** Including one on PPE for COVID-19—also available in Spanish—another on germicidal ultraviolet radiation and another on workers' rights.
- Books:** *The Role of the Industrial Hygienist in a Pandemic* publication was made free to all AIHA members; one of the checklists in the book was downloadable for free on our website.
- Webinars:** Archived recordings such as a joint AIHA and Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) webinar on ventilation, surface disinfection, and PPE.



Back To Work Safely Initiative™



In May 2020, AIHA launched the **Back to Work Safely™** (BTWS) initiative (bit.ly/btws-home), which would come to embody the efforts of a task force consisting of just under 30 members. Starting with ten initial guidance documents for the industries hardest hit by COVID-19, the task force created 27 total guidelines, each specific to a particular work environment, by January of 2021.

These guidance documents feature specialized expert-written guidelines that help businesses to safely reopen, resume operations, and re-engage with the public as they emerged from quarantine restrictions.

As staff disseminated the guidance documents to the national media, Alan Fleeger, the leader of the BTWS volunteer task force and a former AIHA president, reached out to social influencer, entrepreneur, and businessman Mark Cuban to inform him about these vitally important documents. Mr. Cuban endorsed our volunteers' efforts, introduced the documents to his audience of over a million social media followers, and spoke of them in interviews. Within six months, the Back to Work Safely guidelines had been downloaded over one million times.

In support of the BTWS initiative, some AIHA volunteers began translating the guidance documents into Spanish while others undertook the colossal task of harmonizing the language of the documents.

Although the task force was dissolved at the end of 2020, a "tiger team" made up of former task force volunteers continues to revise and modify the Back to Work Safely documents based on emerging research and new directives from federal agencies and public health officials.



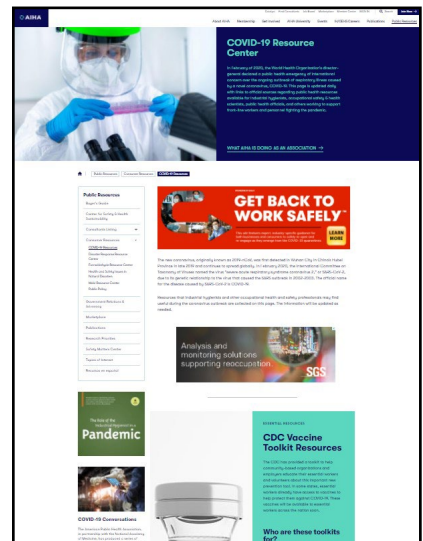
Work Environments Covered by Back to Work Safely Guidance Documents

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|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amateur Sports | Physical/Occupational Therapy, Massage, and Chiropractic Centers |
| At-Home Service Providers | Restaurant |
| Bar Industry | Retail |
| Business Services (Banks, Title Companies, etc.) | Rideshare, Taxi, and Limo Services |
| Childcare Centers | Schools (K-12) |
| Dental Settings | Small Lodging Establishments |
| Construction | Small Manufacturing, Repair, and Maintenance Shops |
| General Office Settings | Small and Medium Sports and Entertainment Venues |
| Gyms and Workout Facilities | Street Vendors and Farmers' Markets |
| Hair and Nail Salons | Transit Systems |
| Institutions of Higher Education | Worship Services and Religious Gatherings |
| Laboratories | Warehouse and Logistics |
| Libraries | |
| Museums and Collecting Institutions | |
| Outdoor Recreation | |

COVID-19 Resource Center



Since March 2020, AIHA has maintained a publicly-accessible **COVID-19 Resource Center** webpage (bit.ly/COVID-19AIHA) that provides employers and workers with up-to-date information and research findings on COVID-19 from various Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety organizations and public health agencies. As information on COVID-19 risks, safety practices, and other concerns accumulated from various community and work environments, AIHA's subject matter expert volunteers remained unbiased sources of information for the public, other AIHA members, and allied organizations.



AIHA COVID-19 Pandemic Efforts



This section of AIHA's website highlights member efforts and expertise, including member recognition in the media, participation in AIHA's collaborative efforts with other associations, and government relations outreach efforts. Various AIHA volunteer groups have also contributed information and resources for free public access and distribution. Here are just a few highlights that can be found at bit.ly/aiha-efforts.

AIHA Partnerships and Alliances

- AIHA joined the National Safety Council's SAFER Task Force.
- AIHA joined ACOEM and AHA efforts for in-kind donations of surplus PPE to healthcare workers.
- AIHA and ABSA International issued a joint statement about resource sharing and collaboration between the two organizations during the pandemic.
- AIHA helped OEHS professionals receive recognition as essential workers by the federal government.

AIHA Members in the Media

- The "5 on the Frontline" podcast series hosted by Mark Ames, AIHA's Director of Government Relations, has featured several AIHA expert members who discussed key points of various industries' recoveries from COVID-19.
- Several AIHA members and leaders assisted *Wall Street Journal* reporters for the newspaper's special in-depth story on potential changes and guidelines for the future workplace, titled "The New Normal of Everyday Life."
- Several AIHce EXP presenters shared their stories of participation in pandemic response efforts for a video highlighting IH/OEHS professionals during the crisis.
- AIHA members shared their expertise on pandemic-related issues in the workplace as guest speakers and interviewees for a variety of webinars, podcasts, and articles by outlets including *Business Insider*, *USA Today*, *Bloomberg Law*, *NPR*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *ABC News*, and *Good Morning America*.
- AIHA members, through the online newsletter *EHS Daily Advisor*, provided expertise and clarification about properly selecting, fitting, and decontaminating PPE; monitoring and treating indoor air; and surface disinfection.
- AIHA members made donations to local healthcare facilities.



To learn more about resources developed by our Volunteer Groups and how to get involved, visit bit.ly/VG-Work. AIHA members have free access to hundreds of white papers, guidance documents and checklists that have been developed by volunteer groups over the years. These resources can be found at www.aiha.org.

Saluting the Tireless Work of Our Board of Directors During COVID-19

AIHA extends the sincerest gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors who served terms 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, led by presidents Kathleen Murphy, CIH, and Lindsay Cook, CIH, CSP, FAIHA, respectively. During these terms, the AIHA Board had to remain agile and flexible as broad strategic decisions were made on nearly a weekly basis. Whether these rapid decisions required the Board to call for a COVID-19 task force, communicate more frequently with the membership, change AIHce EXP to a virtual-only event, hold regular interviews with the media, or weigh in on positions and joint consensus statements, these members always rose to the occasion. They served the wider AIHA membership equitably and led AIHA's emergency response commendably.

To the Entire AIHA Volunteer Professional Community

Beyond COVID-19, AIHA's volunteer professional community diligently and consistently develops practical resources for OEHS professionals to do their jobs better and fulfill the mission of AIHA: to protect all workers from occupational hazards.

Thank you all for your time and invaluable expertise in making healthier workplaces lead to a healthier world.

Thank You to All AIHA Volunteers.



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD