



MEDIA ALERT:

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Occupational Health & Safety Professionals Warn of Health Risks Associated with Re-Entry into Workplace

COVID-19 has caused businesses in most industries to shut down. Occupational health and safety experts urge business owners to be aware of the special industrial health considerations that must be made before safely re-opening.

Owners must not to assume that they can walk back into a building that has sat un-used or with low occupancy for weeks to months. Some businesses including dental offices, manufacturing plants and out-patient surgery centers are at risk of reopening with sick buildings and workplace hazards. Some of the hazards include HVAC systems with mold, cooling towers and water systems that have developed Legionella bacteria in the water. These hazards could lead to serious illnesses including Legionnaires disease, an atypical pneumonia which has symptoms similar to COVID-19.

Experts recommend that businesses prepare for building re-entry after COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of their workers. Workers are also encouraged to ask their employers if they are prepared for re-entry.

Who: AIHA (www.aiha.org) Occupational Health and Safety experts are available for interviews and comments related to workplace health concerns and PPE issues related to Covid-19. They are available to be interviewed by phone or via Zoom/Skype.

Dr. David Krause is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Toxicologist, and Chairman of the AIHA Indoor Environmental Quality Committee with 25 years of

experience in public health, occupational hazard assessments, and indoor air quality. He is an expert for ventilation and returning to facilities that have been closed for months.

Dr. Krause can address a number of workplace hazard topics including:

- The top industries that closed and will need to plan for re-entry that have been the most affected by COVID-19
- The biggest concerns about building re-entry and worker health and safety after COVID and buildings being empty for months
- Risks to workers if a building does not prepare a facility that has been empty for months
- Questions workers can ask employers before re-entry
- Steps necessary to reopen a building, school, other facility after being empty for months during COVID-19

About AIHA

AIHA is a professional association for occupational health and safety scientists who are committed to preserving and ensuring health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, network, comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists, and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed in the industrial, consulting, academic and government sectors. For more information, please visit www.aiha.org.