



# South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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## For Immediate Release

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## SC OSHA to Adopt Infectious Disease Standard

SC OSHA plans to adopt a standard that will address all infectious diseases in the workplace, including COVID-19, as an alternative to Federal OSHA's COVID standard, which went in effect last month.

As a state plan state, South Carolina is required to adopt standards that are the same as or at least as effective as the requirements of Federal OSHA standards.

SC OSHA made the decision to create an alternative standard following input from South Carolina stakeholders, a review of SC OSHA's COVID-19 compliance data (i.e. health industry-related fatalities, hospitalizations, complaints and inspections), and data received from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and the CDC.

"This approach acknowledges the issues previously seen during the pandemic, recognizes the progress made during this time, and anticipates the growing need for stability among employers, employees, and the public when dealing with similar situations," SC OSHA Deputy Director Kristina Baker said. "This alternative approach will place significant focus on employer assessment and allow flexibility as the pandemic has proven to be both fluid and unpredictable. Once adopted, the standard will be communicated on the SC OSHA website and through all social media platforms."

In the interim, employers are reminded of their responsibility to provide safe and healthy worksites for their employees. As such, employees are also reminded of their ability to file a [complaint](#) if they feel an employer is not providing such an environment. SC OSHA's Compliance Team will prioritize inspections involving COVID-19 by evaluating the specifics of complaints including, but not limited to, industry and employer exposure.

SC OSHA will continue to provide compliance assistance through its [Standards Office](#). It will also continue to offer [consultation and training](#) services for employers who are continuing to navigate the effects of COVID-19 on their daily operations.

"SC OSHA continues to monitor the ongoing situation involving COVID-19 and its effects on the employers and employees of the State of South Carolina and vows to make and communicate appropriate changes to this current course of action," Baker said.

*SC OSHA is a division of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.*