



MARCH 24, 2021

the **checkup**

your pulse on preparedness

A Kansas Healthcare Coalition Publication

OSHA release as of Friday, 3/12/21.



Comments on the OSHA Release from

Clinical Advisor,

Beckie Manahan



The National Emphasis Program (NEP) began working in April of 2020 to establish better COVID quality control for all workplaces, with a huge emphasis on healthcare. They set a launch date for March, 2021 and anticipate the program to remain launched for one year. OSHA released the documents for the NEP via a 35 page PDF earlier this month. This program outlines ways to mitigate fines, ensure that employees have the right to speak up about practices, and how inspections will be done. March 26th, OSHA will begin aggressive inspections of targeted and high risk areas. In order to be on the targeted list, a reported outbreak or COVID death may have occurred. Other reasons for being on the target list includes complaints filed by patrons/visitors/staff with safety or PPE concerns. OSHA has said that State plans must be in place or match the NEP by May 12th (with documentation to OSHA).

This program has drawn big fines across the country already and OSHA doesn't show that it will be backing down on their inspections. There are many companies stepping up to assist (with a fee) in making your business compliant and inspection ready. If your agency has not been tracking measures for prevention and spread of COVID, if you have not documented illnesses or ways you avoided illnesses in the workplace, if you have not documented quarantine/isolation within the workplace, if you don't have strong screening procedures (including proper spacing/PPE) then you will likely be cited by OSHA.

So, the question needs to be, "how well have you and your incident command team documented and followed OSHA guidelines since last April?" If not very well, you either need to get active now or pay the price for a company to assist you in being survey ready!

Beckie

This Direction describes policies and procedures for implementing a National Emphasis Program (NEP) to ensure that employees in high-hazard industries or work tasks are protected from the hazard of contracting SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2), the cause of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The NEP augments OSHA's efforts addressing unprogrammed COVID-19-related activities, e.g., complaints, referrals, and severe incident reports, by adding a component to target specific high-hazard industries or activities where this hazard is prevalent. The NEP targets establishments that have workers with increased potential exposure to this hazard, and that puts the largest number of workers at serious risk. In addition, this NEP includes an added focus to ensure that workers are protected from retaliation, and are accomplishing this by preventing retaliation where possible, distributing anti-retaliation information during inspections, and outreach opportunities, as well as promptly referring allegations of retaliation to the Whistleblower Protection Program.

Scope: This Direction applies OSHA-wide. **See attached**

Healthcare NAICS codes are at the top of the primary target industries as noted in Appendix A of the Directive.

	Industry
621111	Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)
621210	Offices of Dentists
621610	Home Health Care Services
621910	Ambulance Services
622110	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
622210	Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals
622310	Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals
623110	Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)
623210	Residential Intellectual and Developmental Disability Facilities
623311	Continuing Care Retirement Communities
623312	Assisted Living Facilities for the Elderly

FBI-CISA Joint Advisory on Compromise of Microsoft Exchange Server

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KS Healthcare Sector CIOs/IT Directors,

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have released a [Joint Cybersecurity Advisory \(CSA\)](#) to address [recently disclosed vulnerabilities](#) in Microsoft Exchange Server. CISA and FBI assess that adversaries could exploit these vulnerabilities to compromise networks, steal information, encrypt data for ransom, or even execute a destructive attack.

The CSA places the malicious cyber actor activity observed in the current Microsoft Exchange Server compromise into the MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge ([ATT&CK®](#)) framework.

CISA recommends organizations to review [Joint CSA: AA-21-069 Compromise of Microsoft Exchange Server](#) as well as the CISA [Remediating Microsoft Exchange Vulnerabilities](#) web page for guidance on detecting, protecting against, and remediating this malicious activity.

Microsoft released its March 2021 Security Updates.

Microsoft has released updates to address multiple vulnerabilities in Microsoft software. A remote attacker can exploit some of these vulnerabilities to take control of an affected system.

CISA encourages users and administrators to review Microsoft's [March 2021 Security Update Summary](#) and [Deployment Information](#) and apply the necessary updates.

University of Kansas Health System

All Eyes on Infection Control Webinar: Reinforcing the Basics

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://carecollaborative-kumc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqduiuqDMvEtZhppH0o3O1LpMd5Nb857eX>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thursday - March 25, 2021 Webinar: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

See Attached Flyer



KANSAS
TRUMA
PROGRAM

2021

Regional Trauma Symposium

April 12-15, 2021 | 12 – 1 p.m.

Virtual



www.kstrauma.org

In the last unusual year, we have all had to adapt to the changing circumstances. How can we carry those pivots into the years ahead? Join us for lunch and learn discussions around rural EMS practices, trauma damage control, virtual injury prevention, and transforming our vicarious trauma. We hope to see you there!

For more information and to Register, go to KSTRAIN.org

Executive Order 21-06 and COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs:

Document with clarification regarding professions that are authorized in Kansas to give the Covid-19 Vaccine

- <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/223/Kansas-Authorized-Vaccinators-PDF---31921>
 - Accessible from www.KansasVaccine.gov – Providers/Guidance Documents/Clinical Information/Kansas Authorized Vaccinators
 - Accessible from www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus - Vaccine Information/General Information/Kansas Authorized Vaccinators

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document:

- <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/222/Vaccine-FAQs>
 - Accessible from <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/> - Kansans/Vaccine FAQs

Got Expired BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card Test Kits?

See the official letter from BINEX as well as the lot numbers in the attached document.

From your Coordinator

- The HCCP of Kansas Statewide Cache is OPEN!!! I will send instructions to use on the 25th
- We have budget money left and the Executive Committee has agreed to use the money to help our EMS Agencies. **EMS providers have a lifting related injury rate 21.3X the national average.** Since people don't have handles, we are purchasing at least one Binder Lift for each EMS Agency in South East Kansas.



The standard size will handle a 350-400 pound patient if the chest size is 34-62 inches. The cost is approximately \$645.00 and we are hoping to get at least 30 each.

See the attached Flyers for more information

Updated Visitation Guidance to Allow More Visitation Options in Kansas Adult Care Homes

Kansas Department of Aging and Disability (KDADS) issued updated visitation guidance 3-15-2021 to allow for more visitation in long term adult care homes. The swift response by KDADS came the same week as The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), issued guidance for federally regulated nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). KDADS guidance closely mirrors that of CMS to allow for consistency between the federal and the state regulated adult care homes.

The most updated guidance can be found at https://kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/covid-19/ach-data/visitation/long-term-care-visitation-guidance-update-3-15-21.pdf?sfvrsn=84360eee_0

Kansas Long Term Care Ombudsman help provide information and assistance to residents and other callers surrounding this visitation guidance, and other long term care issues. Additionally, Ombudsman provide resident directed advocacy when homes fail to facilitate person centered visitation, without adequate reason related to clinical necessity or resident safety.

The Office of the Kansas Long Term Care Ombudsman can be contacted by calling toll free (877) 662- 8362, or by visiting <https://ombudsman.ks.gov/contact-the-office> to obtain the direct number to an Ombudsman covering the county where the adult care home is located.



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