



COVID – 19 Practice Preparedness Tips

Olivia Hankinson

ohankinson@kerr-russell.com

Labor and Employment Attorney

COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan



- All Michigan employers need to have a COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan in place and make it available to all employees.
- The Plan should identify all protective measures taken to ensure COVID-19 does not spread within the workplace.
- The Plan should be consistent with the recommendations in Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.
- Employers must continuously monitor all State Executive Orders, County Emergency Orders, and public health authority guidance (CDC, WHO, OSHA) to ensure compliance as recommendations have and will continue to change.



Safety Concerns: MiOSHA / OSHA KERR RUSSELL Attorneys and Counselors



- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) considerations:
 - Employers are required to provide a safe work environment for their employees pursuant to the General Duty Clause of OSHA
 - https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment
 - Employers may not retaliate against an employee for raising a safety concern
 - Employers must remain compliant with OSHA's recordkeeping requirements, specifically requiring employers to record COVID-19 cases if a worker has been infected as a result of performing their work-related duties. For more information, please visit https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recordingcases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19#:~:text=Under%20OSHA's%20recordkeeping%20requirements%2C%20COVID,Preven



tion%20(CDC)%3B%5B2%5D.

Pertinent Executive Orders



Executive Order 2020-172

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who displays one or more of the principal symptoms of COVID-19 must remain out of work until:
 - 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
 - 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared or since they were swabbed for the test that yielded the positive result; and
 - other symptoms have improved.
- O Any who has had close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or with an individual who displays the principal symptoms of COVID-19 should remain out of work until:*
 - 14 days have passed since the last close contact with the sick or symptomatic individual; or
 - The individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test.



^{*} Health care professionals and workers at a health care facility are exempt from this last section.

Pertinent Executive Orders



- Executive Order 2020-175
 - Identifies all the safety precautions various employers must implement going forward, including:
 - Providing training to employees;
 - Conducting daily screenings;
 - Ensuring employees and patients are social distancing;
 - Identifying how the practice will respond if an employee or patient is COVID-19 positive.
- These Executive Orders change frequently, please continue to monitor <u>https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499 90705---,00.html</u> for new Orders.



FFCRA: Health Care Provider Definition



- The FFCRA states that the term "health care provider" has the meaning as it does in the FMLA, which is:
 - (A) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) by the State in which the doctor practices; or
 - (B) any other person determined by the Secretary to be capable of providing health care services.
- The revised Department of Labor Regulations have stated that in addition to the FMLA definition, "health care providers" will also include those who:
 - Are employed to provide diagnostic services, preventative services, or treatment services; or
 - Are employed to provide services that are integrated with and necessary to the provision of patient care and that, if not provided, would adversely impact patient _care.