



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH ALERT 2021-12 [16 December 2021]

Colder Weather, Delta & Omicron Variants and Greater Vigilance

With the onset of the Winter months, coupled with the predicted expectation of COVID-19 infection surges in the United States, the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) has a responsibility to encourage our labor and management colleagues to increase their vigilance in mitigating the negative health effects that accompany the related viral infections.

While the JSC continues to advise our constituents (in line with current CDC recommendations) to get fully vaccinated (in consultation with their own health care professional) and to accept a booster inoculation¹, we are fully aware of the wishes of some who continue to decline vaccination.

Nonetheless, there are simple measures that we all can take in helping to ensure that COVID-19 infections do not adversely impact ourselves, our families, our fellow workers and their families. When at work and in the presence of others:

- 1). Wear a facemask that covers the nose and mouth completely;**
- 2). Respect the six foot social distancing space (especially when in transport vehicles); and**
- 3). Do not report to work if you're feeling sick!**

At several ports, we are already experiencing an alarming uptick in the number of active infections and extremely adverse outcomes amongst our fellow workers. Our hope is to contain those infections and outcomes to the largest extent possible.

We need your help! We ask all of you to do your part in keeping yourselves, your families, your fellow workers and their families as protected as possible during these trying times.

Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

¹ Natural immunity conferred by previous COVID-19 infection may (or may not) provide a sufficient level of antibodies to effectively combat infection. Before declining vaccination based upon a previous infection, it would be wise to ascertain current antibody levels.

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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