



**ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE**

# **The Novel Coronavirus**

## **Workers and Employers Want to Know**

**Q. Workers and employers have asked the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC):** *“Lately, with decreasing infection numbers being experienced, Federal and State regulators have advised of relaxed prevention efforts in re the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That advice, however, draws distinctions between vaccinated and unvaccinated workers. What should employers and employees be aware of?”*

*[June 29, 2021]*

**A. Since OSHA is the occupational health and safety regulator with the most widespread jurisdiction over the U.S. marine cargo handling industry, it’s best that we base our response on that agency’s most recent guidance (which appears to track the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) current guidance, in general. Be aware, however, that a CDC Order applicable to “transportation hubs”, while being modified, is still in place. In re the CDC Order: [Guidance in re CDC Order](#)**

**Like most Federal & State public health agencies, OSHA believes that those workers who have not been vaccinated (and those workers with other immuno-suppressive predispositions) are at the greatest risk of contracting COVID-19. This is particularly true, given the newer virus mutations that appear to be taking on a dominant status.**

**A link to OSHA’s updated guidance of 10 June 2021 is provided here:**

**<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>**

**While the JSC believes that OSHA’s updated guidance is largely self-explanatory and relatively plain, we would be pleased to respond to any questions our labor and management constituents may have with regard to content and meaning.**

**Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: [blueoceana@optonline.net](mailto:blueoceana@optonline.net)**

**Working Together For The Benefit Of All**

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