

MSHA Response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is abiding by the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America (https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf), which are based on the CDC Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>). MSHA advises mine operators and miners to take the following precautions:

- Avoid close contact: Put distance between yourself and other people (about 6 feet). This includes not crowding personnel carriers, hoists and elevators, or other means of transportation at the mine.
- Clean and disinfect: Wipe down equipment and other frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash hands: If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Stay at home if you are sick.

Inspections and Training

MSHA will continue to perform its essential functions, including mandatory inspections, serious accident investigations, and investigations of hazard complaints. However, for the duration of the national emergency declaration, MSHA has suspended Educational Field and Small Mine Services visits, as well as special safety and fatality initiatives that normally would gather groups of miners on-site to discuss powered haulage, electrocution, and contractor safety.

MSHA will work with mine operators when it comes to the following recertifications:

Annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 46)

- Surface and underground annual refresher training certification (30 CFR Part 48)

- Certified person; sampling (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.202)
- Certified person; maintenance and calibration (30 CFR §§ 70/71/90.203)

Exemptions to recertifications will not be granted; however, their due dates will be extended by at least the time the government is operating under the President's emergency declaration.

New Miner Training

This exception does not apply to new miner training. New miners must be trained before beginning work. Once the Emergency Declaration is lifted, mine operators should work with their respective district offices to ensure that all certifications are conducted in a timely manner.

CTSI Training Courses

CTSI Loss Control staff has converted the on-site, in-person 8-hour Annual Refresher training to a non-live webinar format. Counties can request access to the webinar training modules as well as quizzes. Each road and bridge employee should complete the 7 segments under the supervision of their supervisor. The supervisor or county designated "competent person" as listed on the counties' MSHA Part 46 training plan should provide the final topic required of "updates and changes in the pit operations" and issue an MSHA Annual Refresher training certificate. The quizzes and training certificate should be placed in the employees' official MSHA training file.

What This Means for Counties

Counties should take steps to ensure they are practicing the CDC's recommendations for prevention of COVID-19 at mine sites and should and review their training files and plans to ensure that they remain in compliance with MSHA guidelines. For more information, contact CTSI at (303) 861 0507. [ctsi](http://www.ctsi.org)