

CDC REVERSES COURSE ON ESSENTIAL WORKERS EXPOSED TO CORONAVIRUS

By: Kathleen J. Collins, Esq.

In a reversal of its previous guidance, the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention (CDC) on April 8, 2020, issued [new guidance](#) regarding employees of businesses deemed critical during the [COVID-19 emergency](#) such as hospitals, grocery stores and food processing plants.

Initially, the CDC proposed businesses limit their employees from re-entering the workplace. Though, in light of worker shortages in essential industries [CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, MD](#), acknowledged the concerns stating, "One of the most important things we can do is keep our critical workforce working."

Further acknowledging these concerns, Dr. Redfield announced the changes during a [White House briefing](#), "We really looked at how to maintain that workforce particularly at this time as we begin to get ready to reopen."

Employees may now continue working so long as they do not have [coronavirus symptoms](#), wear a [facemask](#), maintain a [safe social distance](#) to avoid being too close to others, and submit to a [daily temperature check](#). The [guidelines](#) also call for essential businesses to:

- Frequently clean and sanitize workspaces and shared surfaces
- Work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in rooms
- Stagger work breaks to reduce crowding
- Immediately send home anyone who becomes ill

To discuss the impact of the CDC guidelines or provisions have on your business during the COVID-19 crisis, and learn about potential outcomes for insurers and insureds alike, please reach out directly to [Kathleen Collins](#). Kathleen has more than 25 years' experience in complex commercial litigation involving employment, commercial construction, mass toxic tort and environmental matters. She defends employers, hospitality groups, malls, restaurants, retail establishments and manufacturing entities with a world-wide presence.

Litchfield Cavo attorneys are continuously monitoring the complexities and concerns of coronavirus issues. Our attorneys are ready to assist on all COVID-19-related legal matters. To find an attorney who can best analyze your state-specific case and learn how these statutes may impact your filing, please visit LitchfieldCavo.com/COVID-19.

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