

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
36 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246



Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions

To:
Department of Veteran Affairs, dba Richard L.
Roudebush VA Medical Center
1481 W 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Inspection Number: 1472721
Inspection Date(s): 04/20/2020 - 09/08/2020
Issuance Date: 09/08/2020

Inspection Site:
1481 W 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202

The violation(s) described in this Notice is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below

This Notice of Unsafe and Unhealthful Working Conditions (Notice) describes violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the Executive Order 12196, and 29 CFR 1960, Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Related Matters. You must abate the violations referred to in this Notice by the dates listed unless, within 15 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays) from your receipt of this Notice you request an Informal Conference with the US Department of Labor OSHA Area Office at the address shown above. Please refer to the enclosed publication "Federal Employer Rights and Responsibilities Following an OSHA Inspection" which outlines the appeals procedure for this Notice and which should be read in conjunction with this form. If you have any questions please contact this office at 513-841-4132

Posting – The law requires that a copy of this Notice be posted immediately in a prominent place at or near the location of the violation(s) cited herein, or, if it is not practicable because the nature of the employer's operations, where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. This Notice must remain posted until the violation(s) cited herein has (have) been abated, or for 3 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays), whichever is longer.

Notification of Corrective Action – For each violation which you do not appeal, you must provide abatement certification to the Area Director of the OSHA office issuing the Notice and identified above. This abatement certification is to be provided by letter within 10 calendar days after each abatement date. Abatement certification includes the date and method of abatement. If the Notice indicates that the violation was corrected

during the inspection, no abatement certification is required for that item. The abatement certification letter must be posted at the location where the violation appeared and the corrective action took place or employees must otherwise be effectively informed about abatement activities. A template abatement certification letter is enclosed with this Notice. In addition, where the Notice indicates that abatement documentation is required, evidence of the purchase or repair of equipment, photographs or video, receipts, training records, etc., verifying that abatement has occurred is required to be provided to the Area Director.

Program Responsibilities - Section 19(a)(1) of the OSH Act requires the head of each Federal agency to comply with applicable occupational safety and health standards. The intent of this section and Executive Order 12196 is implemented through 29 CFR 1960.8(b). If you are cited for violations of applicable safety and health standards, you have also violated the program element 29 CFR 1960.8(b), which stipulates:

“The head of each agency shall comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards applicable to the agency.”

Informal Conference – An informal conference is not required. However, if you wish to have such a conference you may request one with the Area Director within 15 working days after receipt of this Notice. As soon as the time, date, and place of the informal conference have been determined please complete the enclosed “Notice to Employees” and post it where the Notice is posted. During such an informal conference you may present any evidence or views you believe would support an adjustment to the Notice. In addition, bring to the conference any and all supporting documentation of existing conditions as well as any abatement steps taken thus far.

If you are considering a request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to the Notice, you must take care to schedule it early enough to allow time to appeal after the informal conference should you decide to do so. Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to appeal must be submitted by the Agency’s National OSH Manager to the OSHA Area Director within 15 business days of your receipt of the OSHA Notice to request that OSHA’s Regional Administrator review the case.

Inspection Activity Data – You should be aware that OSHA publishes information on its inspection and notice activity on the Internet under the provisions of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act. The information related to these alleged violations will be posted when our system indicates that you have received this notice. You are encouraged to review the information concerning your establishment at www.OSHA.gov. If you have any dispute with the accuracy of the information displayed, please contact this office.



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

An informal conference has been scheduled with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to discuss the Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions (Notice) issued on 09/08/2020. The conference will be held by telephone or at the OSHA office located at 36 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246 on _____ at _____.

Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION WORKSHEET – FEDERAL AGENCIES

Inspection Number: 1472721

Agency Name: Department of Veteran Affairs, dba Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center

Inspection Site: 1481 W 10th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Issuance Date: 09/08/2020

Employer Instruction: List the specific method of correction for each item on the enclosed notices that does not read “Corrected During Inspection” and return to: **U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 36 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246.** Failure to submit a timely certification of corrective action may result in a notification to your agency DASHO.

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

Notice Number _____ and Item Number _____ was corrected on _____
By (Method of Abatement): _____

I certify that the information contained in this document is accurate and that the affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.

Signature

Date

Title

NOTE: 29 USC 666(g) whoever knowingly makes any false statements, representation or certification in any application, record, plan or other documents filed or required to be maintained pursuant to the Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 6 months or both.

POSTING: A copy of completed Corrective Action Worksheet should be posted for employee review.



Notice of Unsafe and Unhealthful Working Conditions

Company Name: Department of Veteran Affairs, dba Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center
Inspection Site: 1481 W 10th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Notice 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.132(d)(1): The employer shall assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall: (i) Select, and have each affected employee use, the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment;(ii) Communicate selection decisions to each affected employee; and, (iii) Select PPE that properly fits each affected employee.

a) On or about March 12, 2020, the Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not assessed the workplace hazards for employees working in the Health Information Management System (HIMS) Department, to determine if hazards such as, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (COVID-19), were present that necessitated the use of personal protective equipment. The Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not selected and ensured affected employees used PPE, such as but not limited to, surgical masks and face shields to protect against contracting COVID-19.

b) On or about March 12, 2020, the Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not assessed the workplace hazards for employees performing COVID 19 screenings of visitors, patients, vendors, and employees (all assessments for triage) at all hospital entrances, to determine if hazards such as, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (COVID-19), were present that necessitated the use of personal protective equipment. The Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not selected and ensured affected employees used PPE, such as but not limited to, surgical masks and face shields to protect against contracting COVID-19.

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In accordance with 29 CFR 1903.19(d), abatement certification is required for this violation (using the CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION WORKSHEET), and in addition, documentation demonstrating that abatement is complete must be included with your certification. This documentation may include but is not limited to, evidence of the purchase or repair of the equipment, photographic or video evidence, or written records.

ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM

Date by which Violation must be Abated: 10/02/2020



Notice of Unsafe and Unhealthy Working Conditions

Company Name: Department of Veteran Affairs, dba Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center
Inspection Site: 1481 W 10th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Notice 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.134(d)(1)(i): The employer shall select and provide an appropriate respirator based on the respiratory hazard(s) to which the worker is exposed and workplace and user factors that affect respirator performance and reliability.

a) On or about March 12, 2020, the Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not selected an appropriate respirator to protect healthcare employees who had interactions with hospital patrons while working at the Release of Information desk. Employees were exposed to the hazard of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (COVID-19).

b) On or about March 12, 2020, the Department of Veteran Affairs DBA Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center had not selected an appropriate respirator to protect healthcare employees performing COVID-19 screenings of visitors, patients, vendors and employees (all assessments for triage) at all hospital entrances. Employees were exposed to the hazard of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (COVID-19).

In accordance with 29 CFR 1903.19(d), abatement certification is required for this violation (using the CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION WORKSHEET), and in addition, documentation demonstrating that abatement is complete must be included with your certification. This documentation may include but is not limited to, evidence of the purchase or repair of the equipment, photographic or video evidence, or written records .

ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM

Date by which Violation must be Abated: 10/02/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken E. Montgomery", written over a horizontal line.

Ken E. Montgomery

Area Director