

OR-OSHA COVID-19 Permanent Rule FAQs

OR-OSHA adopted its operational rules on COVID-19 in the workplace on May 4, 2021. These rules replace the temporary rules that have been in place for the last 180 days. Here are the provisions that most impact our industry:

Vaccinations

There is nothing about vaccinations in the new rule. No need to track vaccinations, provide vaccinations, or require vaccinations.

Face Covering Requirement

Face coverings are required when workers are closer than 6 feet while working outside, and while working inside when 6 feet cannot be maintained. However, the rule recognizes that Oregon Health Authority can create requirements. We are pushing that OHA should treat outdoor work differently than inside work for mask purposes.

End Date for Operational Rule

OR-OSHA will meet with stakeholders every other month, starting in July 2021 to evaluate when to end the rule. AGC has a seat on both the OSHA Partnership Committee and the Rules Advisory Committee, so we will be actively involved in this discussion.

Transportation

Transporting more than one employee per vehicle is allowed. Employers are required to consider not sharing vehicles when practical. When this is not practical, then the occupants must use face coverings, increase airflow, and maximize the separation of employees in the vehicles.

Exposure Risk Assessments, Infection Control Plans and Employee Training

Assessments, plans and trainings completed for the temporary rule are sufficient to meet the requirements of the new operational rule.

Note: There is discussion at Federal OSHA about implementing a federal OSHA rule to address COVID-19. We will keep you updated as that discussion continues.