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IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Division of Labor

Date: 13 April 2021

Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Senate President Jake Chapman
House Majority Leader Matt Windschitl
Speaker of the House Pat Grassley
Iowa General Assembly
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Iowa OSHA Inspection Number 1512266
Subject: HAZARD ALERT LETTER

Dear: Iowa Senate and House Leadership

On 26 January 2021, Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) began an inspection and evaluation of your workplace at the Iowa State Capitol. The inspection of the Iowa State Capitol was in response to a complaint filed by an employee representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Iowa Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO). The inspection of workplace conditions raised concerns of the potential for employee illness(es) related to exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus2), which is the virus causing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

IOSHA has determined that conditions in your workplace do not at this time, constitute a violation of Chapter 88.4 of the Iowa Code. However, during the course of our inspection, IOSHA identified condition(s) that may expose workers to COVID-19 hazards. Our concerns observed during this inspection are detailed below and identify potential hazards that you should address:

- Social distancing between individuals is not always practiced and not enforced.
- Temperature checks and health screens are not being performed on all persons entering the Capitol Building.
- Employees are not required to report COVID-19 positive test results to leadership.
- No determination of work-relatedness for COVID-19 positive cases reported.

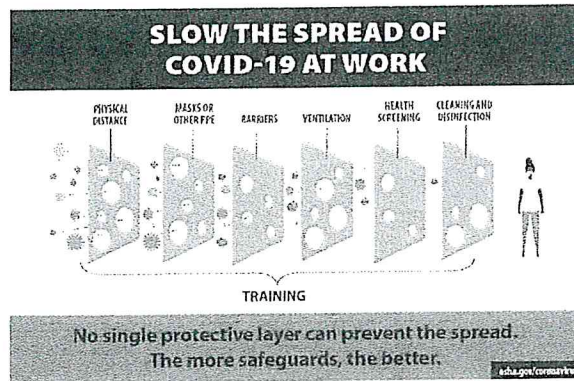
To ensure that COVID-19 related hazards are properly identified and addressed at your workplace, please facilitate immediate corrective actions where needed. IOSHA recommends that you review your safety and health practices at your workplace to ensure consistency with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and compliance with applicable OSHA standards.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected each and every workplace in the United States. The most effective measures to address workplace COVID-19 hazards require the integration of multiple layers of protection into

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your existing health and safety system. The illustration below provides a graphic representation of how these controls operate to ensure a safe and healthy work environment.



We recommend you implement the steps found in the link below and described in the following paragraph to eliminate or materially reduce worker exposure to COVID-19 hazards in your workplace. We know that workplace spread of COVID-19 remains a significant source of the overall spread of the disease in our communities. IOSHA draws upon the science and experience of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and our own guidance as listed on the website below to guide recommendations of the controls that should be instituted in your workplace.

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

These resources should help guide you to better select PPE or face coverings; to implement physical distancing between workers; to provide guidance on cleaning and disinfecting; to inform you about physical barriers if safe distances between workers cannot be maintained; to inform you about improvements in ventilation for your workplace; to assist you in identifying worker training to make your system effective; and to inform you about vaccines and health screening (testing). Proper implementation of all of these cumulative controls, with emphasis on distancing and PPE or face coverings, will improve your health and safety system as it pertains to protecting your workers and the public from risk of contracting COVID-19 at work.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also maintains a website listed below that provides information for employers concerned with COVID-19 infections in the workplace.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Under IOSHA's current investigation procedures, we may visit your workplace within six months to examine the conditions noted above. Thank you in advance for your attention to these concerns. Working together, we can move closer to achieving the goal of workplaces free of preventable hazards. Questions or concerns regarding this matter can be addressed to the undersigned via email.

Sincerely,

Russell Perry
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Iowa OSHA Administrator
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