

SC OSHA's Response to COVID-19

Employers across the state have dramatically changed the way they are doing business during the uncertain times of COVID-19. As a key partner with employers and employees across the state, SC OSHA has changed too.



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Deputy Director*

While SC OSHA had already begun working on plans to provide training and educational information to smaller employers using various mediums, COVID-19 has made it necessary to consider these same ideas for all employers.

Partnership has been key in this transition. SC OSHA has forged several invaluable relationships with other state agencies, associations and local industry leaders to bring more awareness to employers about the safety precautions needed to combat COVID-19. It played an integral part in the response efforts by partnering with SC DHEC and the SC Department of Commerce, through the Governor's Task Force accelerateSC, to develop best practices for industries preparing to re-enter the workplace. It worked with the City of Columbia, Richland County, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, Carolina's AGC, various chapters of the Homebuilders Association and others to provide webinars and training on safety precautions for employers and employees. In addition, SC OSHA has partnered with the SC Department of Social Services to provide support and information to daycare centers. It has worked to provide informational webinars to the nursing home industry about establishing respiratory programs. In August, SC OSHA continued its partnership with SC DHEC to address issues in food service and now provides intervention to restaurants and others in the food service industry to address public complaints and concerns.

Further, SC OSHA has developed various factsheets and/or toolkits for industries to review and consider during re-entry and for those who continued working during this time. It is constantly updating its website to include new helpful information as data continues to change.

SC OSHA also began a digital media campaign that includes billboards across the state with COVID-19 information, other general safety information (i.e. heat stress, fall protection, etc.), and Agency contact information. Information is placed on the website, sent out via eBlast and placed on various social media platforms daily. A dedicated [email](#) address also was established for complaints and concerns related to COVID-19.

The work of SC OSHA continues to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of employers and employees during the pandemic. Since March 2020, SC OSHA has received 1,450 calls and 948 complaints related to COVID. In response, it has resolved 636 complaints, sent 278 emails, and referred 239 complaints. It also has continued to educate employers and employees about COVID by sending out more than 2,700 intervention emails/letters, making 277 calls, and providing 35 webinars/trainings and 15 virtual consultations.

I am very proud of the work that has been done by SC OSHA. Our dedicated employees have worked many long hours, weekends and holidays to meet the needs of our employers and employees. That will continue as long as our State deals with the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

If we can be of service to you, please let us know.

(803) 896-7665

COMPLIANCE

COVID -19 Activity	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
FAT/CAT	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	8
Employer Reported	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
Complaints Received*	74	106	114	261	215	88	33	891
Inspections	0	0	5	4	1	1	1	12
Calls Received	14**	30**	40**	203	293	154	105	839

* Complaints Closed – 622

**Calls were not tracked by all staff

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

COVID -19 Activity	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
Employer Training		2 Training webinars	6 virtual training 1 Training Webinar	1 virtual training 3 Training Webinars				13
Webinars	2	2	2	9	1	3	3	22
Interventions Calls					5	19		24
Intervention Emails and Letters	6	11	93	97	30	47	2493	2777
Consultation Limited Visits					2	8	5	15
DHEC Interventions Received						10	25	35
DHEC Interventions Closed							5	5
Calls Received	14		2			3	5	24
Calls Made	37	16	52	71	30	25	22	253

**Phone calls received not logged by all areas

STANDARDS

COVID -19 Activity	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
Calls Received	102	64	84	132	98	70	37	587
Emails Sent	50	30	40	65	45	30	18	278
Complaint Referrals	16	18	33	78	51	34	9	239

WHISTLEBLOWER

COVID -19 Activity	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
Complaints Received	3	12	13	10	11	7	1	57
Complaints Closed	2	1	1	4	7	0	0	15