



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
*Worker Training Program*

**NIEHS COVID-19  
Response Training Tool**

## **Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace**

*Safety and Health Awareness for Responders to the Coronavirus*

# **Online TTT Review and Discussion of the Training Tool**

**Jonathan Rosen, MS CIH**

**National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training**

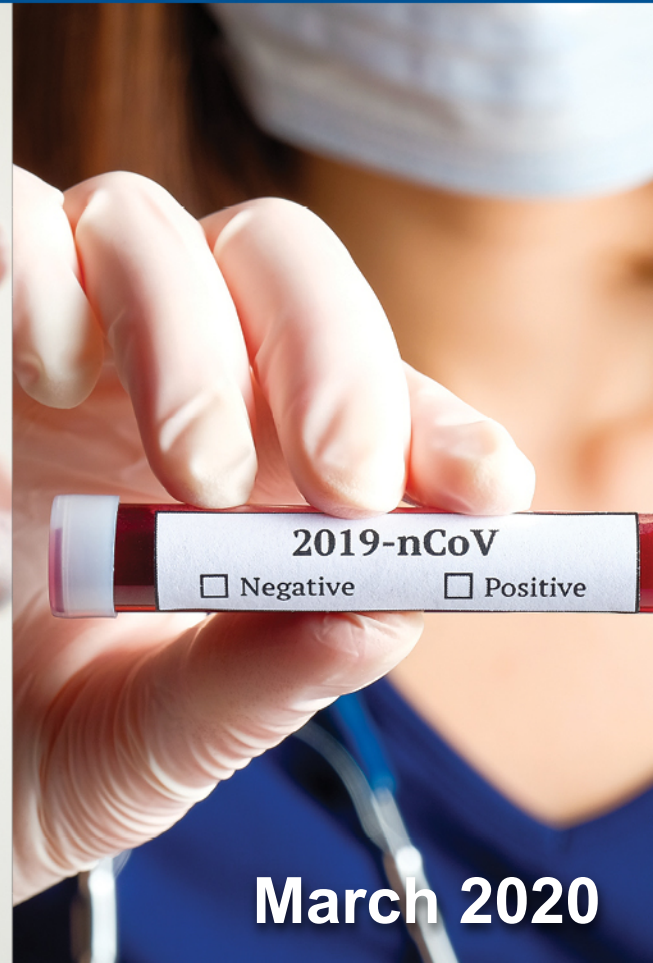


National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
*Worker Training Program*

# NIEHS COVID-19 Response Training Tool

## Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 in the Workplace

*Safety and Health Awareness for Responders to the Coronavirus*



**March 2020**

## Goal and Learning Objectives

- **Goal**
- *Increase health and safety awareness for workers in industries with potential exposure to COVID-19*
- **Learning objectives:** After attending participants will be able to:
  - Explain basic facts about COVID-19.
  - Assess the risk of workplace exposure to COVID-19.
  - Define key steps in worker protection and infection control.
  - Identify methods to prevent and response to COVID-19 exposure in the workplace.

# Course Agenda

## Introduction

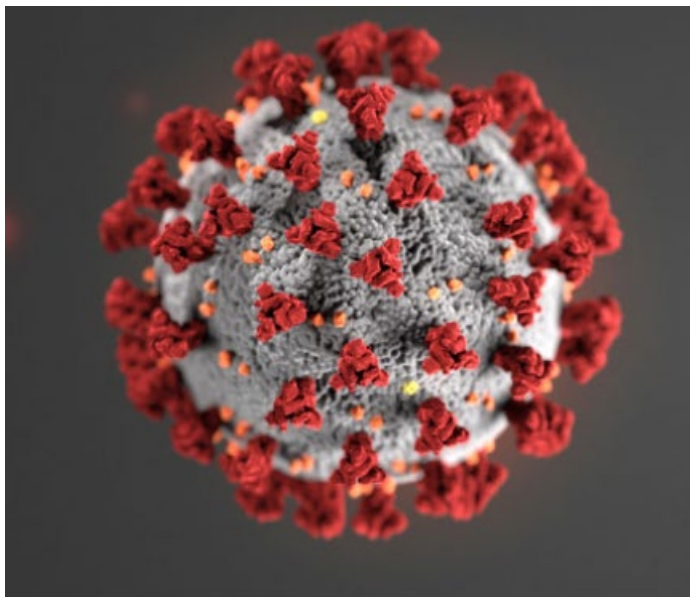
- Goals & learning objectives
- Employer & worker responsibilities
- Worldwide distribution of cases
- US distribution of cases
- How widespread could it get?
- What individuals can do to protect themselves
- Precautionary principle



## Module 1: COVID-19 Basics

- Definitions
- What is Novel SARS COV-2?
- What is COVID-19?
- Transmission
- Incubation Period
- Symptoms
- Person Under Investigation
- Confirmed Case
- How Long It Survives Outside the Body
- Populations at Increase Risk
- Comparison SARS-1, MERS, SARS-2
- Comparison Seasonal Flu vs SARS-2
- Pandemic Influenza
- Treatment

## What is Novel SARS-COV-2?



SARS-COV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- SARS = severe acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Novel - new
- Spreads easily person to person
- Little if any immunity in humans

Detailed information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## Module 2: Assessing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in the Workplace

- Key risk factors in the workplace
- High exposure risk
- Lower exposure risk
- Healthcare settings
- Emergency services
- Community/workplace connection
- Critical infrastructure
- Continuity of operations
- Role of public health



## Module 3: Methods to Prevent COVID-19 in the Workplace

- Key steps for managing epidemics in the workplace
- Community spread can impact any workplace
- Consider the impact on workers
- Basic hygiene and social distancing
- Key elements: COVID-19 Workplace Plan
- Hierarchy of controls and examples
- OSHA PPE standard
- Decontamination
- Respirators & OSHA respiratory protection standard
- Healthcare facility prevention programs
- PPE for high risk jobs



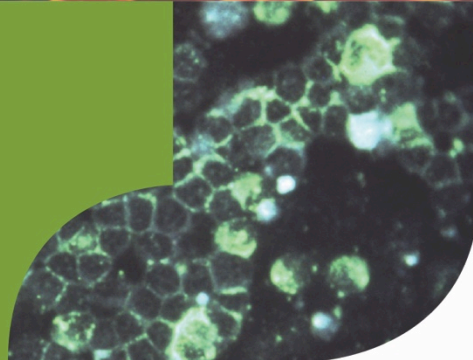
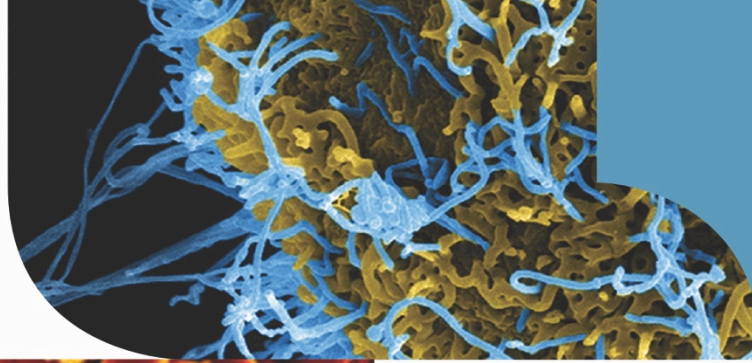
## Module 3: continued

- Training & drills
- Prevention in all work settings
- Applicability of OSHA Hazard Communication standard
- CalOSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard
- Mental health & stress
- Acronyms
- References





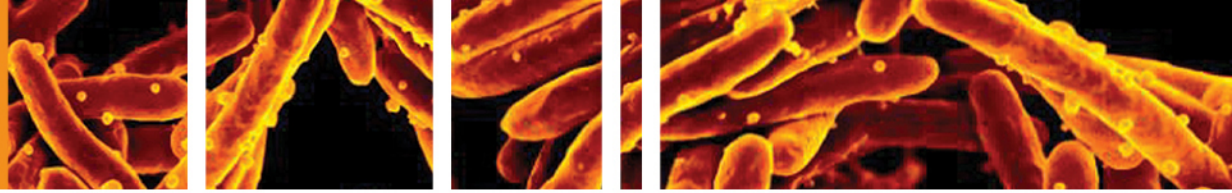
National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
*Worker Training Program*



# Pathogen Safety Data (PSD) Guide Training Module

OCTOBER 2016

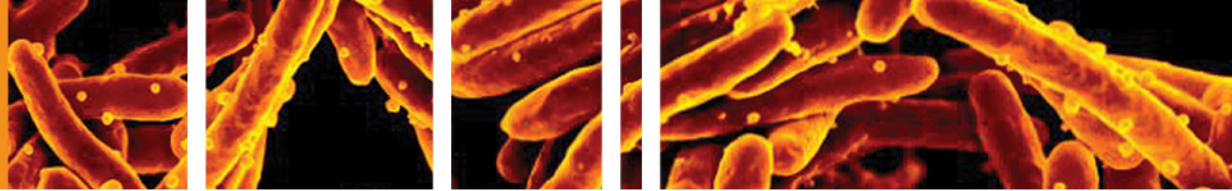
NOTE: This module should not be used as a comprehensive stand alone safety & health training module on infectious diseases. Rather, users are encouraged to adapt and incorporate this module into new and existing programs. Also, the Trainer notes below each slide contain important information that should be reviewed prior to using this module.



# Objectives

Upon taking this module, participants will be able to:

1. Access and use existing resources for pathogen safety data.
2. Look up key terminology used in pathogen safety data resources.
3. Explain the use of pathogen safety data resources in risk assessment and infection prevention and control activities.



# PSD Training Materials May Be Useful

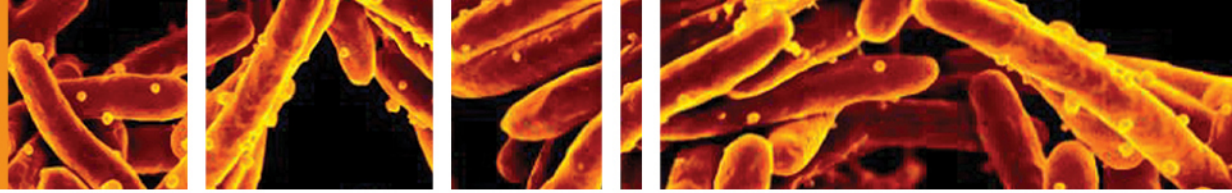
## 1. Activity Worksheet

- 1. Introduction, modify?
- 2. Terms and Definitions Exercise
- 3. 10 questions, characteristics of SARS CoV-2
- 4. Job hazard analysis and 8 questions on hazard control

## 2. Glossary: interactive pdf file (click on alpha index)

## 3. 4 Case Studies

## 4. PSD Guide

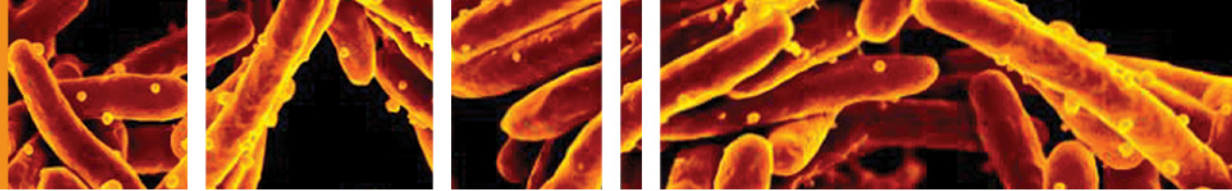


# Activity 3 from worksheet

## 3. Characterizing Infectious Disease Hazards (small group activity)

**Objective:** Familiarize participants with existing pathogen safety data resources to identify an infectious agent's properties.

- a) What infectious agent are you researching? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) It is a: (check one)  bacterium  virus  fungi (mold)?
- c) How is it transmitted? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What are the symptoms? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) What is the incubation period? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Why is it important to know the incubation period? \_\_\_\_\_
- g) What is the pathogens' source? \_\_\_\_\_
- h) How long does the pathogen survive outside of the host? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Have there been exposures to workers in your workplace?  Yes  No  Don't Know  
If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- j) Have there been cases among workers in your employment?  Yes  No  Don't Know



# Activity 4

## 4. Occupational Exposure Risk Assessment and Control applied to the infectious disease agent in Question 3 above. (small group activity)

**Objective:** Participants will become familiar with using Pathogen Safety Data for assessing occupational exposure and selection of control measures for infectious agents.

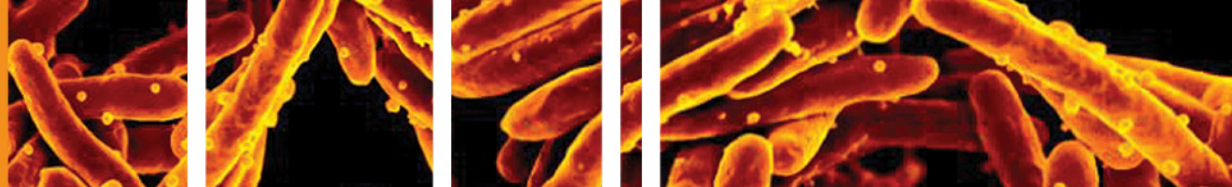
- a) List job classifications and departments of up to 3 exposure groups. Hazard groups include: blood and body fluids, respiratory, animal/insect

| Job Classifications / Departments | Job Tasks | Hazard Groups |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
|                                   |           |               |
|                                   |           |               |
|                                   |           |               |

- b) What are the job specific routes of exposure? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) List methods that are available to identify the infectious agent?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What level of protection is needed? Explain your answer.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) What type of engineering controls should be in place? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) What type of administrative controls should be in place? \_\_\_\_\_
- g) What type of respiratory protective equipment should be used? \_\_\_\_\_
- h) What type of Personal Protective Equipment should be used? \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Action Planning (This activity may be skipped in a direct training program.)

This is a large group activity. Participants will write their ideas for using the PSD Guide and related Training Module in their work and share it with the group during the report back.



# Glossary sample page

**Sterilising Agent (Sterilant)**—An agent or combination of agents which under defined conditions leads to sterilisation.

**Subcutaneous**—Beneath the skin.

**Subdermal**—Beneath the dermis, a lower layer of the skin.

**Suffocation**—A lack of oxygen caused by a mechanical obstruction to the passage of air from the atmosphere to the lungs.

**Superbug**—An informal term for a bacterium that has become resistant to antibiotics usually used to treat it, as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) or any multiresistant bacterium.

**Superficial disease**—Generally a nonlethal disease. Infection is usually confined to a small area of the patient's body and does not spread via the bloodstream.

**Surfactants**—Surface-active agents that reduce surface tension and help cleaning by loosening, emulsifying, and holding soil in suspension, which can then be more readily rinsed away.

**Surgical hand scrub**—An antiseptic-containing preparation that substantially reduces the number of microorganisms on intact skin; it is broad-spectrum, fast-acting, and persistent.

**Surgical mask**—A loose-fitting, disposable type of facemask that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer to protect patients from secretions.