



## OEM in a Flash

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# Long COVID

- HHS has created the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice
- The new office will oversee the National Research Action Plan on Long COVID
- ACOEM leadership has met with HHS
- ACOEM has submitted written recommendations to HHS for the Research Plan



# OSHA Pending Standards

**2023**  
Work Related Injuries  
Workshop

- Healthcare ETS
  - OSHA reopened the comment period
  - ACOEM submitted comments
  - Final rule is still pending
  - Who's On First – CDC or OSHA?



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# OSHA – Inspector General report

“OSHA’s enforcement activities did not sufficiently protect workers from pandemic health hazards.”

## OIG Recommendations

1. Provide additional training to CSHOs to enforce the recording and reporting standard for fatalities.
2. Update guidance or policy to include supervisory review of inspection files to ensure they contain adequate support for the reasons regarding citation issuance decisions before closing inspections.
3. Develop a plan for a future pandemic or epidemic to collaborate with external agencies on worksite case data and to use this data to maximize rapid response and enforcement actions in worksites.
4. As part of OSHA’s rulemaking on infectious diseases, require employers to notify all employees of all known positive cases of infectious diseases at the worksite.
5. Develop and implement a tracking tool to ensure OSHA receives and reviews all items CSHOs request during inspections to ensure alleged hazards have been mitigated.



# OSHA Pending Standards

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- Occupational Lead Exposure

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in June
- ACOEM workgroup drafted comments which have been submitted to OSHA



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**2023**

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# Legislation



# Pending Legislation

- H.R. 7487 – *Employee Access to Worksite Health Services Act*
- S. 4182 – *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*
- H.R. 2193 – *Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act*
- H.R. 6087 – *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act of 2022*
- S. 4928 – *Beryllium Testing Fairness Act*



# End of Session

- At the end of a two-year session, Congress adjourns “sine die” or “without day” and does not reconvene until a new Congress starts in January.
- After that, the slate is wiped clean; there is no business pending. All of the "H.R." and "S." numbered titles that have been discussed and debated for the past two years will be archived.
- When Congress reconvenes, the process starts all over again. Bills are introduced and given a chronological number and there is always a flurry of activity in the first few weeks.





# Cannabis in the States

- New Jersey – legislation would require workers' compensation carriers and health insurance plans to cover the cost of dispensary-purchased 'medical' cannabis and cannabis-derived products.
- Minnesota – recent legalization of consumable products containing the active ingredient in marijuana.
  - Issues
    - Employment actions based on use of "lawful consumable products" in workers' free time.
    - No guidelines on a marijuana impairment standard
    - No reliable testing method for marijuana intoxication;
    - No way to differentiate consumption source



# Health Care Workers and Mental Health



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2023

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# Health Care Workers and Mental Health

- *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*
  - Establishes grants and requires other activities to improve mental and behavioral health among health care providers
- National Academy of Medicine – National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being
  - ACOEM submitted comments, and
  - Is in discussion regarding the next phase of the NAM Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience
- NIOSH – developing a health worker mental health campaign
- ACOEM has reached out to the Joint Commission



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**Questions?**

