

EU-OSHA's perspective on occupational safety and health in the Covid-19 pandemic

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In July 2020, EU-OSHA published the results of a comprehensive research project on the exposure of workers to biological agents at work and the related health problems. Although the research was initiated long before the pandemic, researchers had highlighted pandemic preparedness as an issue, as well as the general lack of monitoring of serious infectious diseases. The research also made evident a lack of awareness among workplace actors of the risks from exposure to biological agents at work, although a detailed legislative framework has been in place for many years, and consequently a lack of prevention measures at work, which became evident after the pandemic broke out. It highlighted the need for public health and occupational safety and health organisations to cooperate to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The presentation will focus on the links between the research findings and the developments during the pandemic. It will furthermore present guidance produced by EU-OSHA and other relevant actions, with a view on the legislation that is in place. It will cover biological agents exposure as well as telework and ergonomic issues arising from it.