

Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Abstracts S189

of the periodic survey on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), involving the main OSH actors.

Materials and Methods: The 2nd wave of the survey, conducted in 2019 and addressed to representative workers and employers' samples, provided an important contribution to support the decision-making process of the Italian Government for action-oriented policy in order to determine priority and interventions on the COVID-19 emergency. A secondary analysis of data collected through the survey was useful for the drafting of the technical documents developed to support the release phase of the containment measures after the first lockdown (March-April 2020) for progressive reopening of work activities that had been suspended by regulatory restrictions.

Results: Data referred to workers perception on biological risk, commuting, eating habits during working time and health surveillance by occupational physicians were considered. These data were analyzed according to economic sector and geographical areas based on the level of COVID-19 contagion.

Conclusions: The epidemiological trend highlighted the importance of work as a substantial factor to consider both when implementing strategies aimed at containing the pandemic and shaping the lockdown mitigation strategy required for sustained economic recovery.

318

COVID-19 infection and Long-COVID. Effective guidance for return to work

Ioannis Anyfantis, Elke Schneider

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), Prevention and Research Unit, Bilbao, Spain

Following the outbreak of a novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19 became a big challenge for public health. The world of work was severely affected during this crisis, while the pandemic highlighted the need to improve the interface between public health and occupational health, as well as to assess possible effects on occupational safety. Apart from acute health effects, a number of those infected are suffering from chronic symptoms for more than 12 weeks after the infection, a syndrome known as long-Covid. Building on existing information, non-binding guidelines to help employers and workers facilitate a smooth and effective return to work for workers suffering from long-lasting health effects of Covid-19 infection were developed by EU-OSHA. The guides cover all stages of the illness, including the acute phase, and address the time before and during return to work. Easy-tofollow advice is provided on how to keep in touch during sick leave, the back-to-work interview, measures such as temporary adjustments to working hours or duties, and where to get help. The proposed practices suggest that workers and managers should engage in a dialogue and hold a return-to-work meeting that, based on mutual understanding, will have as an outcome appropriate adjustments to work duties. Different categories of work demands, including cognitive, physical and emotional demands, are addressed. The proposed approach considers the return to work as part of the recovery process.

319

Development of Participatory Training Program for Preventing COVID-19 in Staff of Facilities for Mentally Retarded Children

Etsuko Yoshikawa¹, Toru Yoshikawa², Yumi Sano³, Hitomi Abe⁴

¹ Japanese Red Cross Collage of Nursing, Department of Nursing, Tokyo, Japan, ² National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan, Research center for the Overwork-related disorders, Kawasaki, Japan, ³ The Ohara Memorial Institute for Science of Labour, International Cooperation Center, Tokyo, Japan, ⁴ Tokai University, Graduate School of Medicine, Kanagawa, Japan

Introductions: In this study, we conducted a training program for preventing COVID-19 in facilities for mentally retarded children by using a participatory approach, with our aim to explore the impacts on the training program.

Method: New action tools were developed through three steps. First, we reviewed relevant references and collected existing action tools related to COVID-19 respond. Then we visited the facilities and collected good practices for preventing COVID-19. Finally, we discussed the practical ways and requirements for action tools effective in the facilities with disabilities. We conducted a two-hour program for 4 times at the facilities. The program was consisted of short lecture about COVID-19 and group discussions based on action checklist exercise.

Results: The staff members reviewed existing measures at the facilities and discussed point to be improved about COVID-19 preventing. In addition, they shared their concerns and doubts about COVID-19 measures that they felt in their daily tasks during group discussions. They felt difficulty, because of the children with disability sometimes were not able to use face masks, wash your hands and gargle regularly to prevent infection. However, many good practices for standard precaution adapted for disabled children were shared through the group discussions.

Discussion: By using a participatory approach that emphasizes social dialogue and action-oriented rather than one-way lecture-type training, staff members empower multifaceted actions for prevention COVID-19 with their own initiatives.

320

Air pollution exposure, SARS-CoV-2 infection, and immune response in a cohort of 3,700 healthcare workers

Michele Carugno ¹, Luca Fedrizzi ², <u>Elisa Borroni</u> ³, Dario Consonni ², Angela Cecilia Pesatori ¹

¹ University of Milan and Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health and Occupational Health Unit, Milan, Italy, ² Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Occupational Health Unit, Milan, Italy, ³ University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy