



ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Novel Coronavirus

Workers and Employers Want to Know

Q. Workers and employers have asked the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC): *“The Centers For Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) keeps changing its recommendations regarding the wearing of masks. Where are we at these days?”* [01 March 2022]

A: CDC revises its recommendations relative to COVID-19 subjects to better reflect the actual and current conditions being experienced in all 50 States. When a change in conditions (such as a significant lowering of recorded COVID-19 infection cases) warrants the revision of a previous recommendation, the CDC generally makes the appropriate revision.

Last week (**25 February**), the CDC updated its recommendations regarding the wearing of masks for the general public. In that update, CDC has adopted a zone-specific policy which stipulates what level of masking protection best suits the current experience within county-specific locations in each State. The updated webpage affords you the ability to track your own county’s level of infection risk (via a drop down box), and thus determine what level of masking protection is best suited for those current conditions near you.

Those recommendation generally fit well relative to our experience within the marine cargo handling industry. It should be remembered, however, that the CDC’s 2021 Order relating to “transportation hubs” still requires indoor workers at seaports to mask-up in most situations. Importantly, the Order has now exempted those employees who work alone or “in the open air” at transportation hubs from the wearing of masks.

We include a link to the relevant updated CDC webpage here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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