



Vol. 12 | May 2022

Stay Safe, Stay Tuned

Each one of us plays a role in keeping the DOL community safe during this unprecedented pandemic. Ensuring this level of safety has not been easy, and it has required all of us to meet challenges above and beyond those we would normally face.

You have risen to that challenge, adapting to the changing conditions of the pandemic, and continuing to deliver on our DOL mission and vision.



We appreciate your resilience over the past two years, and call on you to continue in that commendable spirit of collaboration and flexibility.

Please remember that the pandemic is not over, and we need to continue being mindful of our safety and health protocols. To make it easier, we developed a new guide outlining our safety and health protocols based on [vaccination status](#) and COVID-19 community level. To see the guidance that applies to you, select your vaccination status:

- [Not fully vaccinated](#)
- [Fully Vaccinated, not up to date](#)
- [Up to date](#)

Be sure to check the [COVID-19 community level and any masking requirements at your DOL location](#) every Friday.

Below, you will find a recap of DOL's COVID-19 response guidance. OASAM will continue to share critical facilities, HR, IT, and health and safety updates with you monthly – but it may look a little different than this current newsletter 😊 Please stay tuned for more information and stay safe!

In Case You Missed It

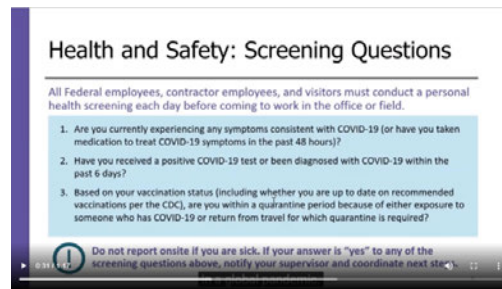
Here is a quick recap of the latest COVID-19 information and guidance sent to all DOL employees:

- [Reentry and Phase 3 Logistics](#)
- [DOL COVID-19 Exposure Notification Process](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Policy](#)
- [DOL Workplace Safety Training](#)(PDF)
- [DOL Workplace Safety Plan](#)(PDF)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels and Masking Requirements by DOL Location](#)

Training and Video Resources

[Daily Health Screening Questions \(1 min\)](#)

Every DOL employee, contractor, and visitor must conduct a daily health screening prior to coming to work in the office or field. This video guides you through the questions.



Remember: **do not report onsite if you are sick.** If you answer “yes” to any screening questions, notify your supervisor and coordinate next step.



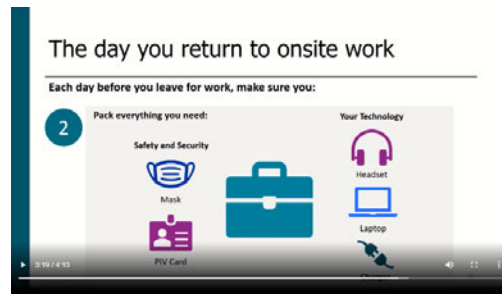
[Telework and Remote Work Agreements \(6 mins\)](#)

What’s the difference between telework and remote work? Do I have to update my telework agreement? What’s the deal with TeleworkXpress? This video of CHCO Sydney Rose answers all these

questions in just six minutes!

[Reentry Reminders \(4 mins\)](#)

If you haven't returned to onsite work yet, or are just getting started, this video has some helpful tips and reminders for making getting the most out of your days in the office.



COVID-19 Tests Available for Personal Use at COVID.gov

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a third round of free at-home tests through [COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov). The tests available for order:

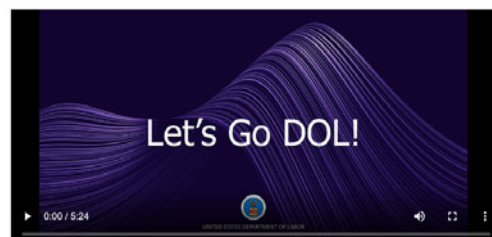


- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC) tests

Please note that these tests are not to be used by unvaccinated employees for screening purposes; employees in that situation should follow the [DOL Testing Policy](#) instead. [Order your free, at-home, personal-use COVID-19 tests today!](#)

Let's Go DOL!

Thank you to all who attended the all staff [Phase 3 Reentry Open Forum](#) last month! For those of you who missed it (or would like to see it again), we've posted an extended version of the slideshow we shared during that meeting. This video includes testimonials



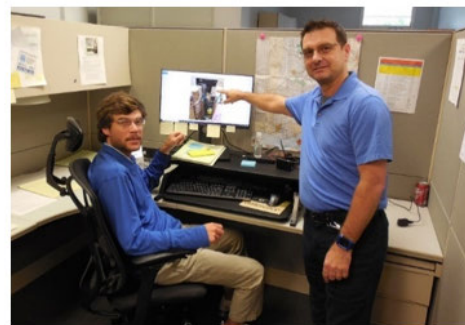
from your DOL colleagues describing their feelings about returning to onsite work. [Check it out!](#)

Below are some additional staff perspectives on shifting from maximum telework to a more in-person capacity.

“I am excited to try new technology solutions while working in a hybrid manner. Before the pandemic, our office seldomly utilized MS Teams. Fast forward two years, and I think we have all gotten use to the virtual world and realize that the flexibilities that new technology offers can be seamless and practical.”

— **Lisa Keefer**, Compliance Officer, OFCCP New Jersey District Office

“New technology solutions will allow compliance staff to become more productive. New communications platforms have freed up time by reducing the need to travel. Using electronic files allows for easy access to information while in the field, teleworking, or in the office. Returning to the office will facilitate training of our new staff. Our new staff will now have direct access to experienced compliance officers and admin while in the office.”



Daniel Fithian, OSHA Mobile Area Office

— **Patrick McCarty**, Acting Area Director, Jackson MS (OSHA)

“Throughout the pandemic, I got used to the convenience of working from the safety and comfort of my home whilst avoiding a one-hour drive (on a good day) to the office. However, going back to the office and interacting with the team has been refreshing and gave me a greater appreciation for the face-to-face contact. Now with DOL workplace flexibilities, we all get to experience the best of both scenarios.”

— **Condell Eastmond**, Area Director, OSHA FT Lauderdale Office

“We experienced significant personnel changes during the past two years, to include me joining the team as its director. I look forward to meeting and working with my teammates in our ‘traditional’ work environment.”

— **Brian O’Connor**, Director, Emergency Management Center (EMC), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASAM)



Ed Rogers, OFCCP
Philadelphia Office

Check out these resources on the [DOL COVID-19 LaborNet page!](#)

- [VaxTrak Homepage](#)
- [Reentry Info](#)
- [Employee Messages](#)
- [Past COVID-19 Connection Newsletters](#)
- [DOL Plans and Procedures](#)
- [Training and Video Resources](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Questions? Please email us at [REDACTED]