

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program responds to requests from employers, employees, and union representatives to evaluate potential workplace health hazards. HHE Program investigators respond to requests by discussing the situation with the requestor and other relevant parties, replying in writing with information, or visiting the workplace.

The HHE Program is available to evaluate occupational issues related to influenza and help identify ways of reducing risks to workers during the current influenza season.

Priority Occupational Groups

To ensure that our limited resources are used where the needs are greatest, we are focusing our efforts on industries and occupational settings in which workers have a lot of contact with sick individuals or the general public. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Teachers and other school staff
- Hospitality and food service workers
- Child care providers
- High volume retail store personnel
- Transportation workers
- Public administration workers
- Healthcare workers (clinical, laboratory, non-clinical) in a variety of settings

Influenza Related HHEs

Below are examples of needs for which an HHE with a workplace visit could be helpful:

- Assess employees' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding influenza infection control measures such as vaccination and personal protective equipment use
- Evaluate workplace influenza-related policies and programs
- Determine the burden of influenza and influenza-like illness
- Investigate an influenza outbreak or cluster of influenza cases
- Measure environmental exposures through air and surface sampling
- Specific activities may include interviewing or surveying employees, observing work practices, and conducting medical tests

If you think a different type of evaluation is needed for your workplace or to discuss a request prior to submission contact us at 513-841-4382 or HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov.

To make a request or for more information on the HHE Program, go to www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe.

Within 1 week of submitting an HHE request, we will contact you to discuss the request. Once the evaluation is complete we will share our findings and recommendations in a written response. Recommendations may include correcting deficient infection control measures, strengthening policies, and providing effective worker training.

