
COVID-19 Toolkit for Essential Workers

Source: [MassCOSH](#)

Every day, workers on the front line, from health care workers and first responders, to those working in grocery stores, pharmacies, transportation and delivery – are risking their lives to provide us with essential services. In Massachusetts, we have already seen the impact. Record numbers of healthcare workers are being infected. As of April 7, according to hospital spokespeople around the state, more than 1000 healthcare workers had a positive test. As of April 7, 35 MBTA workers are battling COVID-19 symptoms, and one MBTA driver has already died from the disease. Last week, 3 UPS workers tested positive for COVID-19, and two dozen others are under doctor-ordered quarantine, and yet the company is dragging its feet in providing the proper health and safety gear.

[Read more...](#)

See also [COVID-19 Resources from TURI](#)

The Truth About Coronavirus, Air Pollution and Our Health

Source: [Environmental Defense Fund](#)

Author: Sarah Vogel

It's been widely reported that air quality in cities around the world has suddenly improved – but of course, this hasn't happened in the way anyone would want. A decrease in traffic and commercial and industrial activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a temporary decrease in pollution.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Exposure to Air Pollution and COVID-19 Mortality in the United States](#) and [Beyond Pesticides - Disinfectants and Sanitizers](#)

Democrats Ask EPA, Interior to Pause Rulemaking Amid Coronavirus

Source: [The Hill](#)

Author: Rachel Frazin

Democratic senators are asking the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pause some or all of their rulemaking in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

A group of eight lawmakers wrote to the EPA asking it to halt the finalization or implementation of any rules that “are likely to result in an increase in toxic chemicals or air or water pollution,” arguing that they could worsen the situation.

[Read more...](#)

See also [New Study Finds EPA Mercury Analysis is 'Seriously Flawed'](#)

COVID-19 Provides Lessons on Climate Adaptation for Cities

[Source: Phys.org](#)

Author: Amy Turner

It is an extremely challenging time for cities. With the novel coronavirus COVID-19 infiltrating cities across the U.S., leaders and staff are working around the clock to develop and implement policies aimed at slowing the spread of the virus, adequately caring for those infected, providing a basic level of services to residents and facilitating safe and effective work conditions for "essential" workers. As the public figures with the most intimate understanding of their residents' needs, city leaders and policy-makers are showing admirable and needed leadership in this global emergency.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Pandemic Deals Blow to Plastic Bag Bans, Plastic Reduction](#)

White Paper: Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) for Packaging & Paper Products

[Source: NERC](#)

Author: NEWMOA and NERC

The goal of this White Paper is to provide state officials, policymakers, and affected industries with a baseline of shared knowledge about Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) for packaging and paper products (PPP).

[Read more...](#)

TRI Reporting and New Requirements for PFAS Chemicals

[Source: US EPA](#)

Presentation slides from the April 16, 2020, webinar covering:

- An overview of TRI reporting,
- Additional guidance resources, and
- Information related to the recent additions of 172 PFAS to the TRI list of chemicals.

[Read more...](#)

PFAS Training Module Videos

[Source: ITRC](#)

The PFAS Team developed training module videos to accompany this Technical and Regulatory Document. The following links will redirect you to ITRC's PFAS Training Module Videos on YouTube: [see article for links]

[Read more...](#)

Chemical Ingredient Transparency in Products: Review of

Existing Public Policies and an Industry Standard

Source: [Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse](#) and [Clean Production Action](#)

Learn the different types of chemical ingredient disclosure policies as well as their requirements. Read the report written by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) and Clean Product Action: Chemical Ingredient Transparency in Products.

[Read more...](#)

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April 20, 2020