

THE ADVISOR



MONTHLY COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATOR

Introducing TMC Security Scout!

Help With HIPAA & Periodic Security Awareness Training

Ensuring workers have annual training that covers all the HIPAA Rules (Privacy, Breach Notification, and Security) is an essential part of a successful compliance program. Reading TMC's monthly newsletter, The Advisor, and filing a signed copy of the last page with your training records shows that you keep up with current topics.

The training security and awareness section of the Security Rule requires that employees be provided periodic security updates. The Security Rule is complex, and even security

professionals spend hours combing through hundreds of resources to try to stay informed.

It is not always practical for TMC to include an article about the Security Rule in each issue of The Advisor; however, we will now include a short security tip from our Security Scout in every issue that is easy to read and practical enough to use right away.



Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

TMC Security Scout

PAGE 1-2

OSHA COVID-19 ETS

PAGE 3-6

It's Your Call

PAGE 6

[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!

HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



TMC SECURITY SCOUT

Continued from Page 1

August 2021

You Are the First Line of Defense

What does this mean? It may surprise you to know that the most important and vulnerable part of your security line-up is you and your coworkers! You don't need to be a security pro to keep your patients' and practice's information safe. Simple habits that reinforce safe email and internet use and patient information handling can help protect against disasters like ransomware or a large data breach.

The most common way to become a victim of ransomware or other cyberattack is by clicking on links and opening files in emails from unknown sources. These are phishing emails, and they can range from really obvious to very sophisticated. It is important to make sure you and your coworkers know the warning signs.

[Click here](#) to download an infographic you can print and post in your office to help keep email security top-of-mind.



[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!

HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



OSHA COMPLIANCE



OSHA COVID-19 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD (ETS): ARE YOU EXEMPT?

In January of 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order which directed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to take action to reduce the risk that workers may contract COVID-19.

As a result of that order, Federal OSHA issued the OSHA COVID-19 ETS on June 21, 2021. The OSHA COVID-19 ETS applies to employers in healthcare settings where any employee provides healthcare services or healthcare support services where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are treated.

When published in July, the standard applied only to states falling under Federal OSHA programs. At this point, state run OSHA programs have either adopted the Federal standard or are creating their own standard.

To determine whether your practice can claim exemption to the OSHA ETS start by answering these questions:

Continued on Page 4

[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!

HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



OSHA COMPLIANCE

Continued from Page 3

1 Does your practice fall under a federal or [state-run OSHA program](#)?

- ☐ Federal OSHA. (Examples: Florida, Georgia, Texas, Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, DC)
- ☐ State run OSHA program that adopted the Federal OSHA ETS. (Examples: North Carolina, Nevada)
- ☐ State run OSHA program that has created their own state specific standard. Ensure your state specific program has the option for exemptions. (Examples: Virginia, South Carolina). If your state did NOT adopt the Federal OSHA ETS, you must follow the standard published by your state which may not allow for any exemptions

2 Which of the following settings describes the location of your practice?

- ☐ Non-hospital ambulatory care settings. Examples include dental and medical practices that are not located in a hospital.
- ☐ Hospital ambulatory care settings. The area must be well defined and may include a separate entrance.

Your practice is exempt if you can demonstrate the following:

Non-hospital ambulatory care settings

- All non-employees must be screened prior to entry and people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not permitted to enter the practice.
- The screening must occur before the non-worker enters the practice. Momentary entry for screening can occur, but screening should not occur at the front desk/reception area. At a minimum, COVID-19 symptoms should be reviewed, and the individual asked if they are experiencing any symptoms. Temperatures are no longer required to be obtained.



Continued on Page 5

[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!
HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



OSHA COMPLIANCE

Continued from Page 4

- Vaccination status for employees is NOT required for this exemption.
- If you are performing diagnostic testing for COVID-19, even if the testing occurs outside of the practice, you will NOT be able to claim exemption to the standard.

Hospital ambulatory care settings

- Screening all non-workers prior to entry as mentioned above.
- All employees working in these settings must be fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination may be obtained verbally, through official vaccine documentation or a note from a healthcare provider. Vaccination exceptions are allowed for medical or religious reasons.

Even if your practice does not have to comply with the ETS, you should still follow the [CDC Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about COVID-19](#). The CDC does [specifically address workers who are fully vaccinated](#) and the ability for these workers to be in well-defined areas of the workplace without masking and physical distancing measures. Examples of these well-defined areas where there is no reasonable expectation that any person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be present include:

- Break room
- Locker room
- Conference room
- Employee restroom
- Administrative areas

Continued on Page 6



COVID-19 symptoms

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!
HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



OSHA COMPLIANCE

Continued from Page 5

In these well-defined areas, employees who are not vaccinated will maintain at least a 6 feet distance from other non-vaccinated employees. Physical distancing from fully vaccinated employees is not required.

While it seems, this is a repeat of previous messages, it is very important to be diligent in the mundane as we are facing increased numbers of COVID-19 infections and hospitalization. As we learned in recent days, the delta variant is as contagious as chickenpox and appears it may cause more critical illness in some individuals. As healthcare providers we must protect ourselves and our patients.



IT'S YOUR CALL

OSHA:	HIPAA:
Why did OSHA issue the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS)?	True or False: Enforcement for certain severe HIPAA violations could include serving time in jail.

[CLICK HERE FOR ANSWERS](#)

[CLICK HERE TO](#)
START YOUR TRAINING TODAY!
HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



THE ADVISOR



MONTHLY COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATOR

SIGNATURE

PRINT

DATE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and post newsletter in office for staff review. Each member should sign this form when completed. Keep on file as proof of training on these topics.

IN THIS ISSUE

TMC Security Scout
PAGE 1-2

OSHA COVID-19 ETS
PAGE 3-6

It's Your Call
PAGE 6