**---- Your letterhead ----**

**[Date]**

Governor Gavin Newsom

1303 10th Street, Suite 1173

Sacramento, CA 95814

By email: [angie.wei@gov.ca.gov](https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=1&dest=mailto%3Aangie.wei%40gov.ca.gov)

Cc: Julie Su, Labor Secretary, JSu@dir.ca.gov

Doug Parker, Cal/OSHA Chief, DParker@dir.ca.gov

Christina Shupe, OSH Standards Board Executive Officer, OSHSB@dir.ca.gov

Katrina Hagen, Department of Industrial Relations, DIRInfo@dir.ca.gov

Stephen Knight, Worksafe, SKnight@worksafe.org

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to bring your attention to the need for urgent action to create an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers from COVID-19 hazards on the job. California needs an enforceable Cal/OSHA standard which both employers and workers can rely upon. The future of our state economy depends on it, as does the health of workers and their families.

**[Describe your organization and who your members are.]**

**We appreciate that Cal/OSHA and the Department of Public Health have worked hard to issue guidance** documents to help employers in affected industries who are willing to take specific actions to prevent the spread of COVID. And Cal/OSHA has standards that employers should follow to prevent injury and illnesses, but these are very broad and are not specific on preventive measures for COVID – such as social distancing, quarantining, ventilation, and training on COVID. **We must do more to protect workers** from getting COVID at work, from spreading it to their coworkers, and from taking it home to their families.

[**Give specific examples from your members** of employers who have failed to follow Cal/OSHA or Public Health Department Guidance or employers who have violated Cal/OSHA standards (such as sanitation and IIPP) putting them at risk of exposure to COVID or spreading it.]

Worksafe and the Labor & Employment Committee of the National Lawyers Guild have [submitted a petition](https://worksafe.org/file_download/inline/8d447350-e065-457f-8c61-aae8b888693e) for an infectious disease standard for all workers. **We need science-based standards tailored to COVID-19 hazards,** especially for industries outside of health care, because millions of workers in these industries are exposed to COVID hazards on the job, or will be as these industries reopen.

**About 6,000 Californians have now died,** and an unknown number of them were infected at work or from work. **The pandemic will continue to spread in workplaces** — as workers return to work in larger numbers. This creates the risk of a second and possibly larger “wave” of the epidemic in coming months, and perhaps again further in the future.

**Cal/OSHA has received an unprecedented number of complaints** from thousands of workers about COVID hazards. Based on these, as well as many news reports, we believe many employers are ignoring existing guidance. A standard which specifically covers COVID hazards is needed to set a clear, enforceable standard for all employers and to convince reluctant employers to take appropriate action to protect workers and the public.

Please move quickly to enact a strong standard, such as the one included in the petition, to ensure that ALL Californians have protections at work. Prompt action will help save lives through reducing the risk of spreading COVID within workplaces, allowing us to reopen the economy while truly minimizing the further spread of the disease. We urge you to embrace this historic opportunity for California to lead the nation on worker health and safety.

**[Signature]**