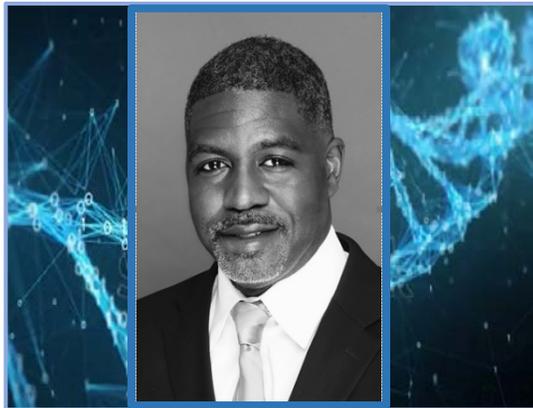




*"Addressing issues within the industrial and environmental health profession that uniquely affect minorities... as well as those concerns that affect disadvantaged and low-income workers and other members of the community."*



## A Message from the Leadership

Greetings MSIG Members and friends:

We are in strange times and we are moving into uncharted territory as COVID-19 has grown to a pandemic. As industrial hygienist and environmental health and safety professionals we are challenged with providing guidance to the world on methods to protect them from this new and very contagious virus. I pray that you and your family stay safe during this time. As the AIHCe conference has been canceled, we have also canceled the "in-person" celebration that we were planning in Atlanta to celebrate our MSIG 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Even though we planned to have a tremendous networking event, business meetings and banquet, we will put that on hold for when we can safely meet. Nevertheless, we can celebrate in other ways so be on the lookout for tributes and recognitions of our accomplishments thus far, and for how we plan to be successful for the next 20 years in supporting and serving minority EHS and communities.

The pressing matter is the need for support to the underserved communities worldwide but especially in the USA. According to article [USA Today](#), Black Americans and Latino's are dying of coronavirus at much higher rates compared with other Americans, raising concerns about care for the nation's most vulnerable populations. Be sure to stay informed on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Watch my video: [COVID-19 Safe Practices and PPE Awareness Full Version](#), please share this and other information with your community.

To respond to the effects that the coronavirus is having in minority communities we are developing a **MSIG COVID-19 Task Force**. We look to connect with communities, view trends, review case studies, recommend safe practices and help solve issues that uniquely affect minorities. We ask for your support, if you are interested please contact me. Together we can make significant impacts.

Thanks for receiving this communication. Please contact me if you have any questions 404-642-8306 and [john@controlehs.com](mailto:john@controlehs.com)

John R. Moore III MS, CIH, CSP  
MSIG Chair 2019-2020

## AIHA Minority Special Interest Group (MSIG) Team



### Inside This Issue:

Pages	Description
1	A Message from the Leadership
2	AIHA Awards & MSIG Recognitions
2	Featured Article
3	COVID-19 Important Information
3-4	AIHA Government Relations & Other News
4-5	Upcoming Events & Items of Interest

## AIHA Awards

Big congratulations to **Faye Grimsley**.



The AIHA Board congratulates MSIG's selection by the AIHA Awards and Fellows Nominating Committee for the AIHA Alice Hamilton Award! This award recognizes the outstanding women who have made definitive, lasting achievements in the field of occupational and environmental hygiene through public and community service, social reform, technological innovation or advancements in the scientific approach to the recognition, evaluation, and control of workplace hazards.

## MSIG Recognition



The MSIG Board recognizes Dr. Troy A. Rawlins for his contributions as the MSIG Director of Education and Program Committee for the past year. He is also the Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of the Occupational Safety and Health Program at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) for the past 6 years. Dr. Rawlins has been involved in occupational safety for over 18 years and is anticipating earning promotion and tenure rank of Associate Professor at EKU in the upcoming months.

## ASSP (2019) Outstanding Safety Educator



Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Slates, a clinical associate professor at IU School of Public Health-Bloomington, has been named "2019 William E. Tarrants Outstanding Safety Educator by American Society of safety Professions (ASSP)". Dr. Kevin has been involved in curriculum revision and web-based course development, spearheading the online master's in safety management program. He is also the founding director of IU's industrial hygiene laboratory. [Read More](#)

## Featured Article

### Legal Insights on the Import of PPE and Other Medical Supplies Vital to Fighting COVID-19

By Holland & Knight Alert

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates a need of 300 million N95 masks per month in the USA to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortages in PPE supplies have led to a "Wild West"-style market depending on "just-in-time" supply chains. Holland & Knight look at several legal issues that should be addressed when participating in this volatile market.

A few helpful tips include:

- Is the supplier licensed to lawfully make, distribute and export the PPE? If product is coming from China, there must be approval by China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) for the supplier/model combination.
- Is the product eligible for import and sale in the U.S.?
- For medical devices and supplies (e.g., masks), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval is required. The FDA has progressively loosened restrictions on imports, to facilitate PPE obtained from abroad to the healthcare professions. See the FDA's Guidance on [Enforcement Policy for Face Masks and Respirators During the Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#), which had the effect of allowing the importation of Chinese-designed "KN95" respirator masks that are similar to U.S. N95 masks.

Read more: [Legal Insights](#)

### See additional resources to identify counterfeit PPE:

- [CDC Counterfeit Respiratory Protection](#)
- [FBI News of fraudulent medical equipment for sale](#)
- <https://www.stopfakes.gov/article?id=Reporting-a-Retailer-Selling-Fakes>
- <https://www.nps.gov/articles/safety-alert-counterfeit-n95-masks.htm>

## COVID-19 Important Information

When looking for “alternative” PPE ensure that it meets equivalent performance standards -see table below.

- **Disposable FFRs that have been designed, evaluated, and validated to meet a given performance standard and have corresponding acceptable product classifications, as follows: [Read More](#)**

Page 4 – Stakeholders for Non-NIOSH-Approved Imported FFRs

Table 1:

Jurisdiction <sup>7</sup>	Performance Standard	Acceptable product classifications	Standards/ Guidance Documents	Protection Factor ≥ 10
Australia	AS/NZS 1716:2012	P3, P2	AS/NZS 1715:2009	YES
Brazil	ABNT/NBR 13698:2011	PPF3, PPF2	Fundacentro CDU 614.894	YES
Europe	EN 149-2001	FFP3, FFP2	EN 529:2005	YES
Japan	JMHLW-2000	DS/DL3 DS/DL2	JIS T8150: 2006	YES
Korea	KMOEL-2017-64	Special 1 <sup>st</sup>	KOSHA GUIDE H-82-2015	YES
Mexico	NOM-116-2009	N100, P100, R100, N99, P99, R99, N95, P95, R95	NOM-116	YES

No single safeguard can protect from the novel coronavirus which causes COVID-19. However, spread can be reduced by following [COVID-19 prevention strategies](#).

- Stay at home if you feel sick and contact your medical provider if you are experiencing COVID-19 [symptoms](#) -- seek medical attention if symptoms are severe
- Practice physical distancing -- stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (use alcohol-based sanitizers if soap and water are unavailable)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow
- Disinfect surfaces and objects which you need to touch frequently

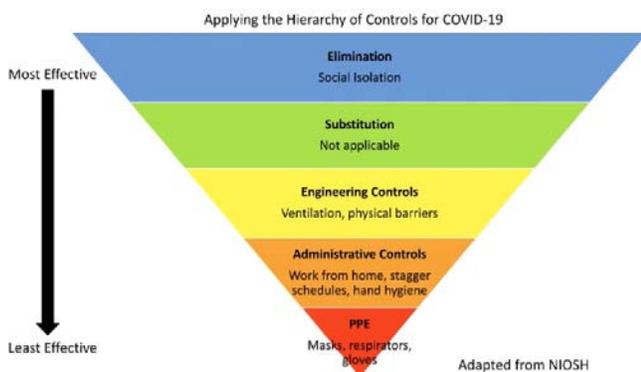
Stay updated (see [CDC FAQs](#)).

- **OSHA’s COVID-19 Guidance Document:** OSHA has published an [OSHA COVID-19 guidance document](#) that shows four different exposure categories: **very high exposure**, high exposure, medium exposure, and **low exposure**. The level of risk depends in part on the industry type, potential contact within 6 feet of people known to be, or suspected of being infected, or requirement for repeated or extended contact with impacted persons. The Occupational Risk Pyramid shows the four exposure risk levels in the shape of a pyramid to represent probable distribution of risk. Most American workers will likely fall in the lower exposure risk (caution) or medium exposure risk levels.
- The [OSHA COVID-19 Website](#) provides additional information regarding OSHA standards and requirements, including OSHA-approved State Plans, recordkeeping requirements and injury/illness recording criteria, and applications of standards related to sanitation and communication of risks related to hazardous chemicals that may be in common sanitizers and sterilizers.

## AIHA Government Relations and Other News

- **AIHA: The Role of the Industrial Hygienist in a Pandemic Guideline** (valued at \$65), available to you for free at this time. [You may download it here.](#) Members of the AIHA Biosafety & Environmental Microbiology Committee recently re-reviewed it and deemed the tools and principles of the book relevant and accurate.
- **OSHA: Expanded Temporary Enforcement Guidance on Respiratory Protection Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces in All Industries During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.** OSHA will exercise enforcement discretion concerning the annual fit-testing requirements, if employers have made good-faith efforts to comply with the requirements of the Respiratory Protection standard. Assess controls to identify any changes that can decrease the need for N95s or other FFRs. Consider taking steps to temporarily suspend certain non-essential operations. [Read More.](#)

- **New Report on Maquilas & COVID-19 in Mexico** indicate that factories did not abide by a federal order issued by the Mexican government when it suspended all non-essential manufacturing. Many factories in the border region continue to operate and slow at implementing any controls putting workers at risk of infection to COVID-19. [Read More](#)
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health put out a video to address public concern regarding home made masks - Can a Mask Protect Me? Putting [Home Made Masks in Hierarchy of Controls](#)



- COVID19 [Policy Tracker](#)
- See Andrew Havic's document on [Respiratory Protection for COVID-19](#), which contains fascinating information regarding lab and field efficiency testing of N95, surgical and cloth masks as seen in the table below. Havic also addresses the [Myth that Viruses are too small to be captured by HEPA filters](#) (a must read)

Respiratory Protection Device	Agent	Efficiency (%)
Surgical Mask	<i>M. Luteus</i> (0.9-1.8 $\mu\text{m}$ )	17.2-99.64
Surgical Mask	<i>B. subtilis</i> (0.7-0.8 x 2-3 $\mu\text{m}$ )	30.4 - >99.9
Surgical Mask	<i>P. alcaligenes</i> (0.5 x 2-3 $\mu\text{m}$ )	75-85
Surgical Mask	Corn oil (0.1-4 $\mu\text{m}$ )	0-80
Surgical Mask	Not Specified	0-80
<b>Cloth Mask</b>	Latex Spheres (0.03, 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2.5 $\mu\text{m}$ )	15-57 (count basis) 13-40 (mass basis)
T-shirts, scarves and <b>cloth masks</b>	NaCl (0.020-1 $\mu\text{m}$ )	10-60
Shirt	DOP	4
Towel		14
Handkerchief		2
<b>Nylon hosiery</b>		67

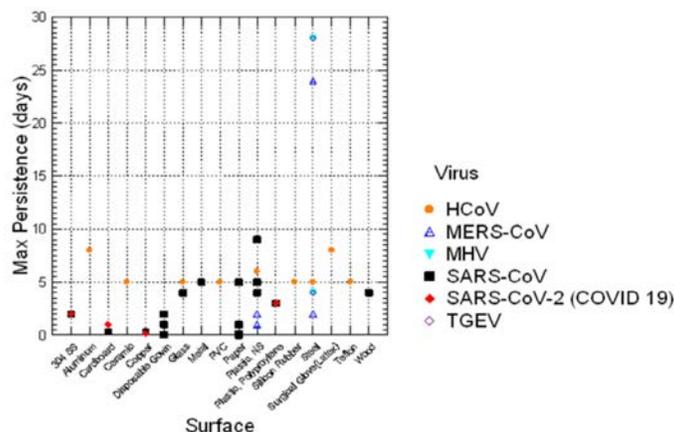


Figure 2. Image of aerosol generated during a sneeze. (from Lemmon, 1942)



Figure 4. Sneeze through a surgical mask (from Lemmon, 1942)

- See Andrew Havic's document on how long does COVID-19 stay on surfaces: [See document](#)



- US DOL Seeks Nominees for Advisory Board of Toxic Substances and Worker Health Board of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. Members will advise on the Site Exposure Matrices of the DOL; medical guidance for claims examiners, etc. <https://bit.ly/3dPB6yq>
- The EPA invites nominations of scientific experts for the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) and four SAB standing committees described in this notice. Appointments will be announced by the Administrator and are anticipated to be filled by the start of Fiscal Year 2021 (October 2020). <https://bit.ly/3dOfFOi>

## Upcoming Events & Items of Interest

### MSIG Scholarship:

MSIG scholarship fund helps deserving minority students dedicated to studying IH / EHS pursue their educational goals, overcome hardships and achieve their dreams. We need you to [Donate Here](#).

### MSIG COVID19 Taskforce:

MSIG is seeking participants for the "MSIG COVID-19 Taskforce" to respond to the effects that the coronavirus is having in minority communities in the USA and worldwide. We are called in this pandemic to help the "underserved population" and connect with communities, view trends, review case studies, recommend safe practices and help resolve issues that uniquely affect minorities. This is a steep challenge as we are in an unprecedented time and doing our best to support our society. Please contact MSIG Chair John Moore at 404-642-8306 or [john@controlehs.com](mailto:john@controlehs.com).

**MSIG Building Connections:**

John Moore MSIG Chair and Kathy Murphy, AIHA President at 2019 Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.



**AIHce 2020:**

Has gone exclusively VIRTUAL. Join OEHS professionals from around the world to discuss emerging issues, trends, the latest technology, and best practices in Occupational Hygiene and OEHS!

<https://www.aihceexp.org/>

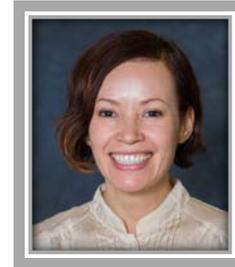
**MSIG Annual Meeting through AIHce will also be virtual (Date/ Time – TBD)**

**Catalyst – YOUR Online Community**



Have you logged in and updated your profile in the new online community, [Catalyst](#)? Join the conversation, build community, and connect with your peers right now! Enter a place for knowledge exchange, content curation, idea incubation and professional networking with leaders and partners in your field.

**Communications Committee**



Claudia Alvarado  
(CIH, MS - Occupational Hygiene)

For story ideas and comments, please contact us at [msigcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:msigcommunications@gmail.com). Like us on [Facebook](#) Find us on [LinkedIn](#).



*"Addressing issues within the industrial and environmental health profession that uniquely affect minorities... as well as those concerns that affect disadvantaged and low-income workers and other members of the community."*