

### In the Spotlight..



*This year, Adelphoi celebrates 50 years of service to youth and their families. Although the celebrations are different than we had planned, we look forward to celebrating with a year of reflection, resiliency, and renewal.*



*Recently, staff representatives from all over our organization joined together with kids from several of our group homes to participate in a collaborative art project entitled *Stepping into the Future* to decorate stepping stones in celebration of our 50th anniversary that will eventually be displayed on our main campus in Latrobe.*

Photo Credit: Adelphoi

#### GRANT AWARD

The PCPA Workers' Compensation Trust is pleased to announce the Grant Award Program for the 2021/22 year. This year, the Board approved \$100,000 for the Grant Program with a maximum per Member award of \$5,000. Recipients of the award will be chosen based upon the ability of their project to reduce or eliminate workplace accidents & injuries. **Be sure to submit your application by October 31, 2021.** An email from Wolverine Loss Control Services with the application was sent May 20, 2021, if you need the application contact Lisa Bellis or Gordon Smoko.

### EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD

#### COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

On June 10, 2021 OSHA issued a new standard(1910.502-Healthcare) effective immediately to protect health care workers from the coronavirus. This includes employees in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities; emergency responders; home healthcare workers; and employees in ambulatory care facilities where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are treated. OSHA posted compliance and implementation information at the new ETS webpage <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

First off, Trust Members will need to determine if the ETS standard applies to them. The ETS standard may apply to Trust Members with home healthcare operations, depending on some exemptions noted in the standard. For example the standard does not apply to, "Home healthcare settings where all employees are fully vaccinated and all nonemployees are screened prior to entry and people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not present". OSHA has a flowchart to determine if this standard applies to you on the ETS webpage.

In the following bullet points I try to summarize the key parts for Trust Members that will need to comply with the ETS standard.

- ✿ Conduct a hazard assessment and implement a COVID-19 plan for each workplace.
- ✿ Screen and triage patients, clients, residents, delivery people and other visitors and nonemployees entering the setting for symptoms of COVID-19.
- ✿ Develop and implement policies and procedures to adhere to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- ✿ Provide and ensure employees wear facemasks when indoors and when occupying a vehicle with another person for work purposes.
- ✿ Provide and ensure employees wear respirators and other personal protective equipment for exposure to people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- ✿ Keep employees at least 6 feet apart from all other people when indoors. Install cleanable or disposable solid barriers at fixed workspaces in non-patient areas where employees are not separated from others by at least 6 feet.
- ✿ Screen employees before each work day and shift.
- ✿ Notify certain employees if a person who has been in the workplace is COVID-19 positive. Remove employees who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19, certain COVID-19 symptoms, or have had close contact to a person who is COVID-19 positive in the workplace. In some cases, provide pay and benefits to employees removed from the workplace
- ✿ Provide reasonable time and paid leave for vaccinations and vaccine side effects.
- ✿ Train employees on workplace policies and procedures regarding COVID-19.

One positive aspect of the new ETS standard is provision of a "Mini Respiratory Protection Program". The ETS addresses an emergency health crisis and the mini respiratory protection program is designed to improve worker protections with limited provisions for the safe use of respirators that can be implemented more quickly and easily than the more comprehensive respiratory protection program required by the normal full OSHA Respiratory Protection standard that requires medical evaluation/ questionnaires, and fit testing. It applies only to specific circumstances specified under the ETS, generally when workers are not exposed to suspected or confirmed sources of COVID-19 but where respirator use could offer enhanced worker protection. This will assist Trust Members with respiratory compliance, however, note that a full respiratory protection program is necessary when working with suspected or confirmed COVID sources.

### FDA Action-HAIYOU Safety Needle Failure

To reduce exposure to sharps injuries to employees and injection injury to individuals, the FDA on May 20, 2021 recommends health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers:

- Stop using and remove from your inventory the 1mL syringe with 25Gx 1-inch needle and the 1mL syringe with 23G x 1-inch needle configurations (combinations of syringes and needles with needle safety devices) manufactured by HAIYOU until further notice. Users and facilities that decide to dispose of applicable unused product should follow facility processes for sharps disposal.
- Do not purchase these HAIYOU syringes and needle configurations until further notice.

The Guangdong Haiou Medical Apparatus Co., LTD. (HAIYOU) has declined to initiate a voluntary recall. More FDA actions are pending. See OSHA Article at web link <https://www.osha.gov/quicktakes/06012021>

### 2021 Susan Harwood Grants

OSHA has funding opportunities available for the 2021 Susan Harwood Training Grant Program. Organizations are encouraged to apply for:

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 COVID-19 training grant and 2021 Susan Harwood training grants. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will fund \$10 million in grants for workplace safety and health training on infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

**Application deadline is July 26, 2021**

- The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program will fund \$11,787,000 for targeted topic training, training and educational materials development, and new capacity building grants.

**Application deadline is August 23, 2021.**

For more information on how to apply for these grant opportunities see <https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants/applicant-information>

Notably, an OSHA recordkeeping requirement has been added with the new ETS standard. Employers covered by the new ETS standard (with more than 10 employees total) must establish and maintain a COVID-19 log to record each instance identified by the employer in which an employee is COVID-19 positive, regardless of whether the instance is connected to exposure to COVID-19 at work. The COVID-19 log is intended to assist the employer with tracking and evaluating instances of employees who are COVID-19 positive without regard to whether those employees were infected at work. Employers that are required to keep OSHA injury and illness records (i.e. the 300, 300, 301 logs) must continue to record work-related confirmed cases of COVID-19 on their OSHA 300, 300A, 301 logs.

The ETS standard has also impacted the fatality/serious injury 8 & 24 hour reporting requirements. Employers must report each employee COVID-19 fatality to OSHA within 8 hours of learning about the fatality. Employers must also report each employee COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization to OSHA within 24 hours of learning about the in-patient hospitalization. The only difference from current fatality/serious injury 8 & 24 hour reporting is that under the ETS, employers are required to report a COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization or fatality that occurs **at any time after a work-related incident**.

OSHA has several fact sheets to assist with COVID-19 Healthcare ETS compliance on the ETS webpage. <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

### Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program

Notification of the 2022 Nonprofit Security Grant Program will be available late summer/early fall, assuming funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program Fund is included in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's FY21-22 budget. The Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program funded by the state of Pennsylvania covers such things as safety and security planning and training; purchase of safety and security equipment and technology; upgrades to existing structures that enhance safety and security; and vulnerability and threat assessments. To ensure that you receive timely notice of when the application period opens, you can sign up to receive notification via email when to application becomes available. The website to sign up for email notifications is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NonprofitFunds> Also, you can check back at the grant website in the fall. <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/Non-Profit-Security-Grant-Fund.aspx>

### Ergonomic Portable Sit-to-Stand Assist Equipment

Trust staff member strains, including those from assisting individuals with sit-to-stand movements between bed, wheelchair, shower chair and toilet are a leading loss driver. There were 638 strains claims of all types for the Trust from 7/1/16-3/31/21 accounting for \$4,370,729 incurred losses, second in frequency and severity to only Slips, Trips, and Falls. The challenge for staff working in homes can often be tight spaces where traditional sit-to-stand equipment cannot be used and lack of portable sit-to-stand equipment that can be carried between homes.



One piece of equipment that can help in these situations is the "Molift Raiser Pro". This 11 pound device is portable in two sections and can be used by one staff member to assist individuals who can bear weight. Straps are also necessary, often they can be assigned to an individual and stay at the home. The lift can be transported easily between homes in back seat or trunk of a car. List price is \$1,071 with many equipment specialists selling significantly below that figure. See the website for details

<https://www2.etac.com/en-us/products/lifts-and-slings/sit-to-stand-lifts/molift-raiser-pro/#features>

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If Lisa Bellis or I can assist with information discussed in the newsletter, please let us know. Thank you for your time and interest in safety!