

Learning a New Standard

California Aerosol Transmissible Disease(ATD)

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What is an Aerosol Transmissible Disease (ATD)?

A disease that is transmitted by aerosol a gaseous suspension of fine solid or liquid particles.

ATD Standard covers droplet and airborne (droplet nuclei)

Airborne includes cases or suspected cases of:

Tuberculosis (TB)

Measles

SARS

Monkey Pox

Small pox

Chicken pox (varicella)

Novel or unknown ATDs (pandemic flu, but not the seasonal flu).

CAL/OSHA's New ATD Standard

Developed and proposed by the Cal/OSHA Standards Board.

The first enforceable comprehensive worker health and safety protection standard for ATD in the U.S. and around the world

Most provisions became effective August 5, 2009

Could become model for a nationwide OSHA Standard, as did California Bloodborne pathogens and Safer Sharps.



Work Settings Covered

- Health care, public health
 - Applies to EMT₁, EMT₂, Paramedics, but not first aid
 - Specific high risk environments
 - Corrections
 - Homeless shelters
 - Drug treatment programs
- Laboratories that handle ATPs-L (Aerosol transmissible pathogens)
- First receiver for biological incidents
- Contaminated equipment or areas

What's in the CA ATD Standard?

CONTENT

- (a) Scope and Application**
- (b) Definitions**
- (c) Referring Employers**
- (d) Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Exposure Control Plan**
- (e) Engineering and Work Practice Controls and Personal Protective Equipment**
- (f) Laboratories**
- (g) Respiratory Protection**
- (h) Medical Services**
- (i) Training**
- (j) Recordkeeping**

Hands on Activity

Practice Using the CA ATD Standard



Answer Key

1. Which diseases or pathogens covered by the ATD standard require airborne infection isolation? Page 36, Diseases/Pathogens Requiring Airborne Infection Isolation

2. Which workplace must followed the requirements of this new standard?
Page 1, Scope and Application (a) (1)

3. Are there healthcare facilities that are not covered by the ATD standard?
Yes. Page 2, Scope and Application (a) (2)

4. An HVAC contractor is hired to repair ventilation ductwork in your area, are they covered by the ATD? Yes. Page 2, Scope and Application (a) (1) (I)

5. What is an exposure incident? Page 6, Definitions (see Exposure incident definition)

Answer Key

6. **What are some specific high hazard procedures?** Page 6, Definitions (see High hazard procedures)

7. **Does a Referring Employer have to train their employees?** Yes. Page 4, Scope and Application (a) (4) and Page 13, Referring Employer (c) (7)

8. **What are four key elements of an exposure control plan?** Page 15, ATD Exposure Control Plan (d) (2)

9. **Do employees have to be involved in reviewing the effectiveness of the exposure control plan in their work areas?** Yes. Page 16, ATD Exposure Plan (d) (3)

10. **What has to be done when a patient is known or suspected of having an airborne disease?** Page 18, Engineering and Work Practice Controls and Personal Protective Equipment (e) (5)

Answer Key

- 11. Your supervisor says that a surgical mask is considered proper protection for H1N1 flu under the ATD standard – is this true?** No. Page 22, Respiratory Protection (g) (3) (a)
- 12. How often does your employer have to redo the fit test for your respirator after the initial one?** Annually until Jan 1, 2014, then every 2 years. Page 24, Respiratory Protection (g) (6) (B) 3
- 13. When an employee has had an exposure incident and a precautionary removal is recommendation by the physician or other licensed health care professional, what happens to their wages and benefits?** The employer shall maintain wages and benefits until employee is determined noninfectious. Page 30, Medical Services (h) (8) (B)
- 14. When is training required?** Page 31, Training (i) (2)
- 15. What is the minimum length of the required initial training?** Standard does not list a specific length of time for initial training.
- 16. Does your employer have to make records available to your local union under the ATD?** Yes. Page 35, Recordkeeping (j) (4) (B)

Questions/Discussion

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