

Audiometry Testing

It is well known that noise-induced hearing loss is a prevalent occupational condition and for this reason has exposure monitoring with medical surveillance required. The same associations that have developed the programs to protect employees hearing, have stepped forward to recognize how these rules are difficult to follow during these times. The Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC, 2020) is aware that the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted routine ambulatory and elective surgical healthcare delivery across the nation. CAOHC has advised that audiometric evaluations be suspended indefinitely. Most routine occupational hearing conservation audiometric examinations are not medically essential and, given the high infection rate of COVID-19, CAOHC believes suspension of this medical surveillance examination will protect healthcare workers, consumers, and conserve the supply of personal protective equipment. (CAOHC, 2020).

How to Meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Requirement during COVID-19 Pandemic

With recommendations from CAOHC during the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic Medical surveillance for noise exposure has been suspended indefinitely and deemed not medically essential. The recommendation for suspension is in effect until medical facilities are advised to resume normal operational conditions in accordance with Federal, state, and local public health authorities.

Employers are advised to document good faith attempts to meet the applicable requirements as soon as possible following the resumptions of normal conditions (U.S. Dept of Labor, 2020). Frequently checking OSHA's webpage at www.osha.gov/coronavirus for updates is recommended.

Aspirus Occupational Health medical facilities performing audiograms for businesses will be available for you, when it is advised to resume normal operational conditions. We also advise that businesses monitor guidance about COVID-19 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, OSHA, and CAOHC.

REF: Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation., 2020, March), <https://www.caohc.org/UserFiles/PositionstatementCOVID-191.pdf>

REF: United States Dept. of Labor, Occupational Health and Safety Administration, (2020, April 16), Enforcement Memos Discretion in Enforcement when Considering an Employer's Good Faith Efforts During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-16/discretion-enforcement-when-considering-employers-good-faith-efforts-during>

**COVID-19
Call Center
1-844-568-0701**

If you need emergency
medical attention, call 911
and tell them you are having
COVID-19-like symptoms.

