

A **46 year old male** employee was **exposed to COVID-19** while working as a CT Tech conducting chest X -Rays on patients at the hospital.

The employee became ill with COVID-19 which was likely contracted in the workplace. Approximately one week prior to experiencing symptoms, the employee had performed chest x-rays on two patients who were positive for COVID-19, one on 10/16/20, and one on 10/17/20.

The employee began experiencing symptoms on approximately 10/23/20 and asked the employer (Tennova Harton hospital) for a rapid COVID test on 10/25/20. The employee was found to be positive the same day. On 10/28/20, the employee began to feel worse and went to the ER of another local hospital (Tennova Shelbyville) and was admitted. The employee passed away in the hospital due to complications of COVID-19. Medical records indicate that in addition to COVID-19, the victim had diabetes mellitus, metabolic encephalopathy, acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia, and either cardiac arrest or a pulmonary embolism.

According to interviews and documentation provided by the employer, extensive efforts had been made to comply with guidelines. The employer's PPE policy was appropriate. At all times while in the facility employees were required to wear a surgical mask. For contact with patients who were not positive or not suspected of having COVID-19, employees were required to wear a surgical mask, a face shield, and additional PPE such as gloves and gown when needed. For positive patients or PUIs (person under investigation), employees wear a gown, gloves, bouffant, and either an N95 and face shield or a PAPR (3M Versaflo TR-300, RPB PX4 Air, 3M Versaflo TR-600, and MaxAir models available). The employer stated that they were still controlling the distribution of N95s, but they were not running low. Employees replaced their N95s and surgical masks when they were difficult to breathe through, visibly soiled, or damaged.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious

\$3,500

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1: Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The employer did not report the work-related death of an employee who died on 10/31/20 due to a COVID-19 infection until 11/2/20.



