

A **63 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while working as an audit inspection supervisor. This facility stores, holds, and sells vehicles that have been impounded by the Memphis Police Department. There are 30 employees that work three shifts, seven days a week at the impound lot.

Through employee and employer interviews it was found that the facility had approximately 4 cases of positive COVID-19 tests at the end of December 2020 and early January 2021. Three of these cases were determined to be work-related and are found on the 2021 300 logs. Contact tracing conducted by the employer also determined that the victim had been in contact with two employees who also tested positive for COVID-19. It is reasonable to think that the fatality was work-related.

It was determined during the investigation that the employer is following current CDC guidelines for protecting employees against COVID-19. Barriers have been utilized to prevent direct contact with the public. The employer mandated social distancing and masks for its employees and any member of the general public that enters the facility. Employees and the general public are required to answer screening questions and have their temperature taken by an employee who has also been trained. Some employee positions at the facility, such as the victim's position, do not ordinarily interact with the general public on a regular basis.

According to employee interviews, all employees and customers are required to wear face coverings at all times. The employer provides surgical masks and gloves that can be taken as needed. The employer also conducted COVID-19 awareness training and implemented additional cleaning policies. The custodial duties at the facility are conducted by a contracting service, but employees are required to stop all work 30 minutes prior to a shift change and disinfect their area for the oncoming shift.

The vehicles are cleaned and searched by sworn officers prior to employees at the impound lot taking control of the vehicles. The employer requires any employee that tests positive for COVID-19 to isolate according to current CDC guidelines. The employee cannot return to work until a negative COVID-19 test is submitted to the health and safety office.

It was determined that the employer conducted relevant and effective training on required policies. The employer is staying current on CDC guidelines and adjusting their policies in order to keep employees safe while working with the potential to be exposed to COVID-19. Social distancing, mandatory face coverings, hand washing, sanitizing, temperature checks, and barriers installed between workers and the general public are all used per current CDC guidelines.

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.

No violations are recommended.



Covid-19—Insp # 1513771 Metro Police Department-Impound Lot

