

A **52 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while working as a senior manager at a tobacco manufacturer. The facility is approximately 750,000 square feet for processing tobacco products with shipping and receiving bays.

On Friday August 13, 2021, the victim held about a 15 minute meeting in the pouch section business leader's office on the production floor. During the meeting, two other production managers were present. Within a few days, all three managers that were in the meeting had COVID-19.

The Business Leaders Office was a modular office with a drop-down ceiling and one window air conditioner unit for ventilation. It measured 19' 9" X 16' 9" and had 4 desks that were spread apart from one another for each of the Pouch Production Business Leaders.

After the Meeting, one manager who worked the 2nd shift, started feeling sick and left work early. The next day he tested positive for COVID-19. At that time the employer put all three Managers on quarantine. The victim reported COVID symptomsonset on August 16, 2021. He tested positive on August 17, 2021 and was hospitalized on August 25, 2021. The third manager tested positive on August 14, 2021 and was hospitalized for the period of August 21, 2021- August 24, 2021. The victim passed away on September 27, 2021; however, the other two managers returned to work.

During interviews it was determined that each Manager sat at a desk during the meeting and were wearing a mask; however, that was not proven to be 100% positive. Each desk had hand sanitizer, and desk sanitizer.

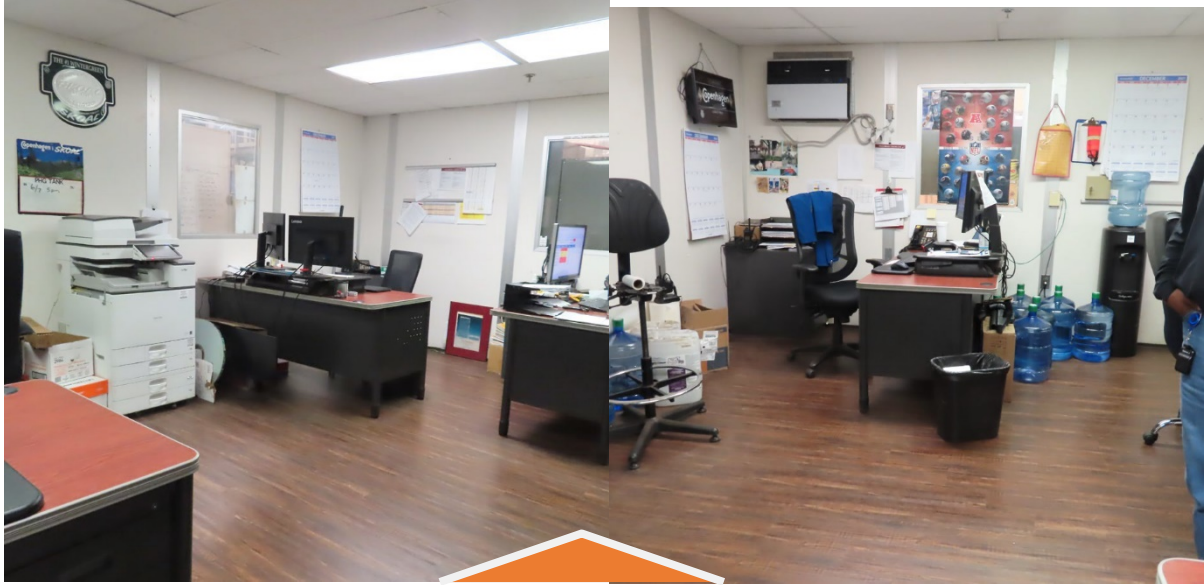
Although this fatality can be considered work-related, no major issues that contributed to the fatality were found in the employer's implementation of the CDC guidelines. According to interviews and documentation provided by the employer, extensive efforts had been made to comply with guidelines. The employer's PPE policy was appropriate. Currently, while working in the facility employees are required to wear a surgical mask, have their temperature taken daily, and clean prior to each break to allow the disinfectant contact time for disinfection.

**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 citations were issued.

Covid-19—Insp # 1565426 US Smokeless Tobacco Company LLC



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