



Monday, February 1, 2021

Workplace Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Amendment Act of 2021

At tomorrow's legislative meeting, Councilmember Silverman is planning to introduce emergency legislation relating to COVID-19 workplace safety. As you may recall, a similar law was enacted last year; this bill will supplement that legislation by requiring among other things all businesses to comply with all Mayoral orders; allows employees who quit due to unsafe work environments the ability to file for unemployment compensation; and adds to worker compensation that COVID-19 is an illness that can be covered.

HAWDC has been in contact with Councilmember Silverman, and we have raised several issues that we have concerns with, including what an employer can disclose when an employee tests positive for COVID-19, and removing the rebuttable presumption that a workplace action was in retaliation to an employee raising a COVID-19 workplace safety complaint. HAWDC will update members on the status of the legislation after tomorrow's legislative meeting.

Hotel Employee Vaccinations

HAWDC has been working with the Mayor's office regarding the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for hotel employees. As essential workers, who come in contact with the public daily, it is pertinent that hotel employees are eligible for the vaccine as soon as possible. Currently, due to the extremely low supply of the vaccine, the District is following CDC guidelines which unfortunately does not include hotel workers in the first phases of the vaccination schedule. HAWDC will continue to work with the administration to press the importance of vaccinating our industry's employees.

Group Gathering Numbers

Currently, the District has limited indoor group gatherings to no more than 10 persons per room. The District government uses criteria from the CDC, as well as the current COVID-19 positivity rate in the District, to determine these limits.

HAWDC will continue to work with the Mayor's office to increase this limit. We will update members as soon as we have any further information.

Regards,
Lisa