



## Safety Now For All – Work Safe Pledge

**“Take the Pledge – Flatten the Curve for Everyone!”**

Workers and volunteers are at the epicenter of efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 and protect the public. All disasters have this in common – in the end workers will be putting themselves in harm’s way to get the job done for the community. This includes social service agency employees and volunteers. These workers have additional risk of exposure since they often do not have the option of isolation that the general population has. Disparate impacts among low wage workers and workers of color are now being widely reported.

All essential workplaces need information for workers and volunteers in service industries on how they may be at risk, ways to stay protected, what employers must do, and workers’ and volunteers’ rights to a safe workplace.

A commitment to the education and empowerment of essential workers and volunteers is essential. In these chaotic and dangerous times it does not matter whether this public health “work safe” pledge emerges from the bottom up, or comes from the top down. What matters is that more and more employees, employers, volunteers and organizations make the pledge.

### Work Safe Pledge

**The Work Safe Pledge:** I will only continue essential work at my job or in my industry if the work can be done in a way that also prevents the spread of Covid-19. To honor this pledge I will:

- 1) Attend a **Work Safe** training and workshop on worker / volunteer safety under Covid - 19.
- 2) Create a **Work Safe Committee** or work group at my workplace or organization.
- 3) Create a **Work Safe Protocol** at my job site or organization.
- 4) Identify an external **Work Safe Adviser** for ongoing support.
- 5) Resolve all disputes about working safe under Covid-19 in a collaborative, non-discriminatory way, and using a fair dispute resolution process if necessary.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, my organization takes the **Work Safe Pledge**.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I individually take the **Work Safe Pledge**.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to join the Work Safe Council, a newly formed coalition that will take action to promote the **Work Safe Pledge**.

Copy this pledge form and email it to [worksafe@cworkers.org](mailto:worksafe@cworkers.org) or call 513-621-5991.



## Who Can Help Me Make My **Work Safe Pledge**?

*Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center (CIWC)* is a low wage and immigrant worker-led organization focused on labor standards and safety. CIWC's worker safety training program, *Safety Now for All*, is part of the University of Cincinnati's Midwest Consortium for Worker Training. CIWC's safety program is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health & Science. The CIWC has organized several successful, large-scale public engagement projects like the wage enforcement ordinance at the city of Cincinnati, and the Good Food Purchasing campaign at the Cincinnati Public Schools District. CIWC is also one of many Free Store Food Bank community agency partners that is responding to the current challenge to deliver food to thousands of food insecure families. Through its own food distribution program CIWC understands the challenges of working in essential services first hand.

## Why is the **Work Safe Pledge** Needed?

It is unrealistic to expect that all systems are perfectly in place in advance of an unprecedented public health crisis such as COVID-19 pandemic. There are many loopholes in the existing governmental and non-governmental responses to COVID-19 responses. We can manage the situation better if we work together. Such loopholes could be filled through a 'healthy' partnership between the government and the civil society. But this requires an organic, grass roots commitment to public health, a commitment that your work safe pledge helps build.

## What is the Training Program for the **Work Safe Pledge**?

The National Institute of Environmental Health & Science (NIEHS) is a federal program that's the key public health training resource for all workers and volunteers exposed to infectious diseases. CIWC was chosen by the regional coordinator of the NIEHS to be a Train the Trainer resource in the Midwest region for Covid-19. The training program has the following learning objectives for workers, employers, and organizations engaged in essential services:

- 1) Identify ways workers and volunteers could be exposed to Covid-19, what employers and organizations must do to protect workers and volunteers, and what individuals and groups of workers can do to reduce their risk.
- 2) Identify the health effects of common disinfectants, what employers and organizations must do to protect workers from chemicals, and what individuals and groups of workers safe while cleaning.
- 3) Describe key rights that protect your health and safety at work, and steps you can take if your employer or organization is not protecting you.