



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
PO BOX 369
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

April 23, 2020

Mark McLane, Director
Rutgers University
Rutgers Environmental Health & Safety Department
73 Street 1603
Bldg. 4116 Livingston Campus
Piscataway NJ 08854

Re: Northern State Prison
168 Frontage Street
Newark NJ 07114
UPA No.: 1577117
Inspection No.: 1473001
Letter sent by email only

Dear Mr. McLane:

The Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Program received information regarding a fatality of an individual who is employed at your worksite listed above.

The specific nature of the fatality is as follows:

Possible COVID-19 virus related death of an employee at the Northern State Prison.

The fatality is possibly related to COVID-19. At this time PEOSH cannot make a determination whether this employee may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus as part of their work duties. As COVID-19 has been defined by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a reportable illness, PEOSH has the regulatory obligation to investigate public employee fatalities which may be the result of exposure to the virus as part of their work duties.

Based on the information obtained by PEOSH, we are conducting a worker fatality investigation. We do not intend to initiate an on-site inspection at this time. As part of our investigation, you are requested to perform a self-audit of the alleged hazardous conditions and make any necessary corrections or modifications to protect employee health within **five work days** of the date of this letter.

Also, within **five work days**, please provide me in writing the results of your self-audit and attach any supporting documentation of your findings. There is no penalty for finding deficiencies; you must however correct those deficiencies to ensure employee health and compliance with our regulations. Please include a description of any corrective action you have taken or are in the process of taking. Attached any supporting documents such as written policies, equipment receipts, training records, photographs, and written programs.

In particular, we will need to see:

- Illness report/investigation regarding the employee (Susan Cicala) fatality.

If you provide the requested information, we will make a determination if an on-site investigation will be required. If we do not receive a response from you within **five work days** indicating that appropriate action has been taken or that no uncontrolled hazard exists and why, an on-site inspection may be conducted.

Please note that PEOSH will conduct an on-site inspection based on a random sample of the off-site investigations where we have received responses in which employers have indicated satisfactory corrective action. This policy has been established to ensure that employers have taken the action asserted in their responses.

You are requested to post a copy of this letter and your response where they will be readily accessible for review by all of your employees until PEOSH deems the case closed.

Information about coronavirus; coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which is the illness caused by coronavirus; and measures you can take to prevent your employees from contracting coronavirus can be found at the following locations:

- State of NJ COVID-19 website – <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- OSHA COVID-19 website – <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>
- CDC COVID-19 website – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me via e-mail at Glenn.Pulliam@doh.nj.gov and copy Peosh@doh.nj.gov. Your personal support and interest in the safety and health of your employees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Glenn Pulliam, Program Manager
Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program

c: Glenn Pulliam