A 76 year old male employee contracted COVID -19 while working in the paint department as a salesman for custom prints.

During the inspection, interviews were conducted with five of the positive employees. After the first employee tested positive for COVID-19 in the Custom Print Department, the employer informed the employees of their potential exposure. As a result, multiple employees from the department went for testing. Employees who tested positive reported this to the employer, then isolated for at least 10 days based on guidance from the Sumner County Health Department.

One employee stated that he was tested after a family member informed him of a positive case within the family. He tested positive via a rapid test and did not return to work. However, it was determined that he had worked at the facility with the victim and other co-workers on January 18th, 19th, and 21st.

The victim tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test on January 24, 2021 after receiving a negative result via a rapid test on January 23, 2021. During a phone conversation with the victim's wife, it was determined that due to their age she and her husband were very cautious throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They did not eat in restaurants, received groceries through an Online service, and did not gather with family during the holidays. In addition, the victim did not have any known contact with a positive case outside of work.

The employer implemented controls to protect employees from COVID-19 such as the use of face coverings, the practice of social distancing, and heightened sanitation efforts; however, TOSHA has determined this fatality is likely work-related as 9 of the 13 employees in the paint department were diagnosed with COVID in the same two-week time frame.

## 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.

## Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious \$500

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)3:** Each recordable injury or illness was not entered on the OSHA 300 Log and/or an incident report (OSHA Form 301or equivalent) within seven (7) calendar days of receiving information that a recordable injury or illness has occurred:

Each recordable case of COVID-19 was not entered in the OSHA 300 Log within 7 calendar days of the employer receiving information that the recordable illnesses had occurred.





