

# Safety Update for VCAT

June 2021

*Liz Mackey, OSHE Director*

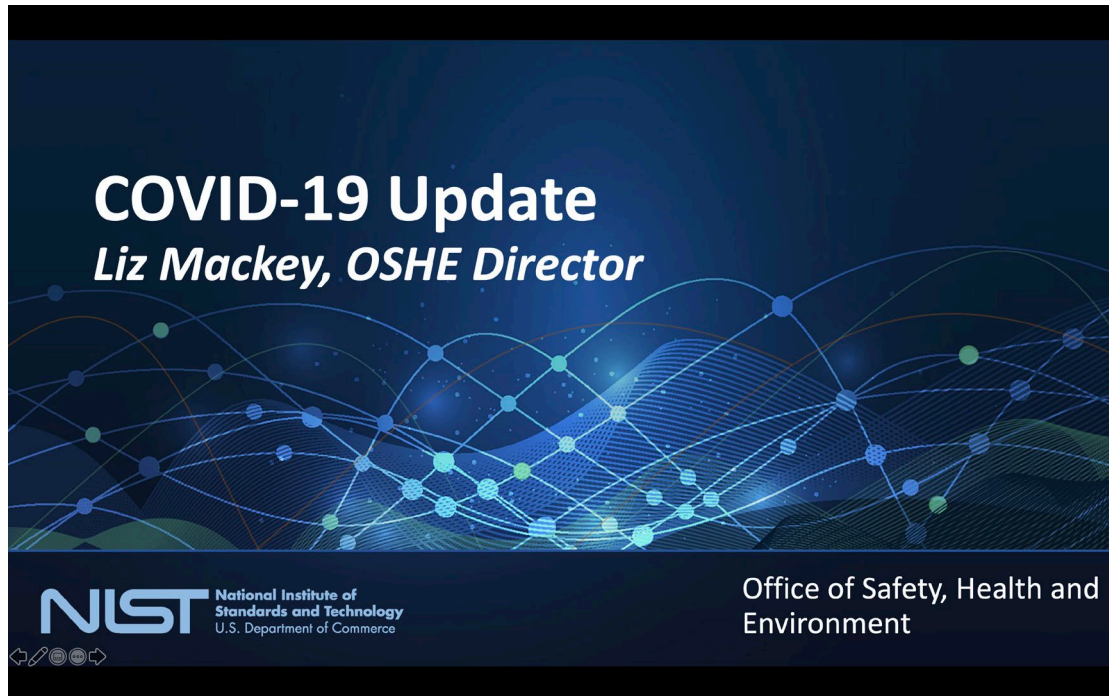
- Align phased operation criteria with OMB memo 21-15
  - Use CDC community level of transmission data
  - NIST Leadership updated weekly
- Maintain COVID-19 prevention protocols for staff, contractors and visitors and provide requirements and recommendations that reflect up-to-date CDC guidance, best practices, and scientific information
- Case response, disinfection, and notification protocols
- Assisted with new and revised hazard assessments
- Issue requirements for contractor safety plans

## COVID-19 Return-To-Office Handbook

May 2021

Department of Commerce





**Town Hall Meetings**– All staff and all Managers

**Websites:** COVID FAQs, Visitor page, OSHE site

**NIST Directives:** Pandemic Operational Phases; COVID Mitigation Protocols; Use of Face Coverings; Visitor, Contractor and Delivery Personnel Requirements

**COVID Safety Documents (list not comprehensive):**

- Daily Health Screening Requirements
- Safe Start up after absence from campus
- Badging In procedures
- Use of common areas
- Eating and Drinking on campus
- Mask Use Guidance, selecting a face covering
- Updating Hazard Assessments
- Mitigation Recommendations for Exposure Scenarios
- Good Hygiene Practices, hand washing video

**Safe Return to Campus Training** Version 4 up next



Office of Safety Health and Environment leads the response to on-campus COVID-19 cases, overseeing disinfection of potentially contaminated spaces and notification of close contacts when necessary, and monitoring case data for trends and potential transmission on campus. Business Operations Office maintains daily report tally for DOC.

## Case Data (May 31, 2021)

- ❖ 339 cases reported as symptomatic, or COVID-19 positive to COVID19@nist.gov (assigned case numbers)
- ❖ 129 cases of those tested positive (includes teleworkers and on-campus staff)
  
- ❖ OSHE has responded to 76 cases (March 17, 2020 - May 31, 2021) for persons with COVID symptoms or who tested positive and were on a NIST campus while potentially infectious, i.e., within 48 h of symptom onset, or COVID-19 positive test date for asymptomatic cases
  - ❖ 76 response plans
  - ❖ 47 required disinfection of spaces
  - ❖ 58 had close contacts on campus
  - ❖ 19 were COVID positive (of these, 6 people had one or more close contacts)
  
- ❖ 1 investigation to evaluate circumstances and determine whether there may have been transmission on campus. None were close contacts of other cases on campus.

# DOC/NIST- HHS Coronavirus Vaccine Clinic



- Department of Commerce COVID team members worked with Department of Health and Human Services to select a location for a COVID vaccine clinic for federal staff in the National Capital Region
- NIST was selected based on the infrastructure available including a fully operational Health Unit, freezers with adequate capacity, temperature -80°C, indoor locations with sufficient space, adequate parking, etc.
- All-Hands-On-Deck in Management Resources enabled the vaccine clinic to proceed installation of additional security features; upgrade of electrical service to the Health Unit to support a new freezer; installation of wireless access point for clinic computers and internet connections to monitor freezers
- Daily support for HHS staff from Management Resources



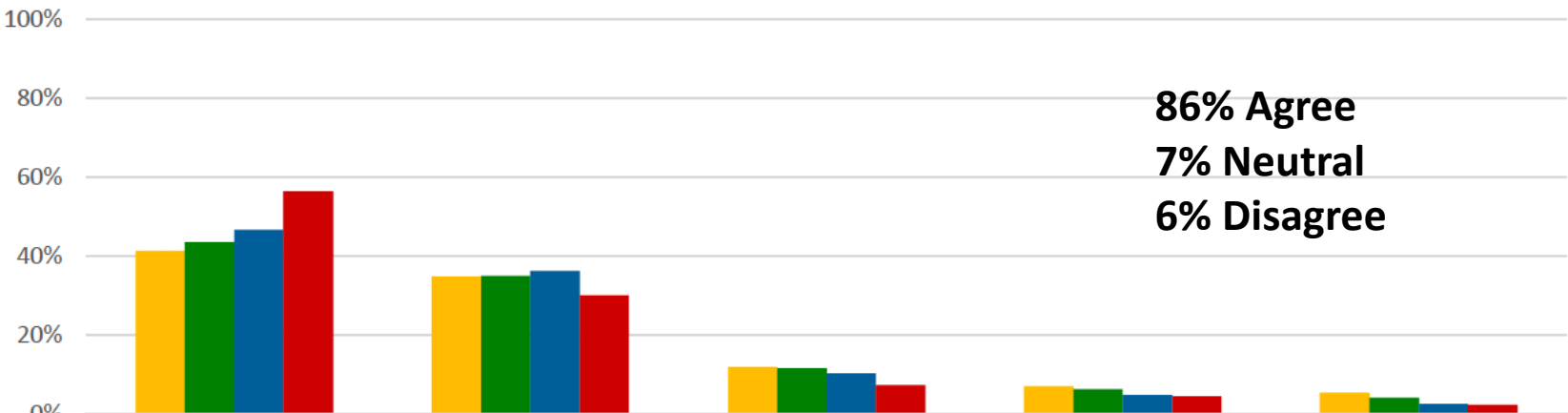
*HHS-NIST COVID Vaccine Clinic Served 1,000's of federal employees in the National Capital Region*

# Employee Viewpoint Survey: COVID Communications



COVID-19 Employee Support

Q46: During the COVID-19 pandemic my organization’s senior leaders have...provided effective communications about the pandemic.



86% Agree  
7% Neutral  
6% Disagree

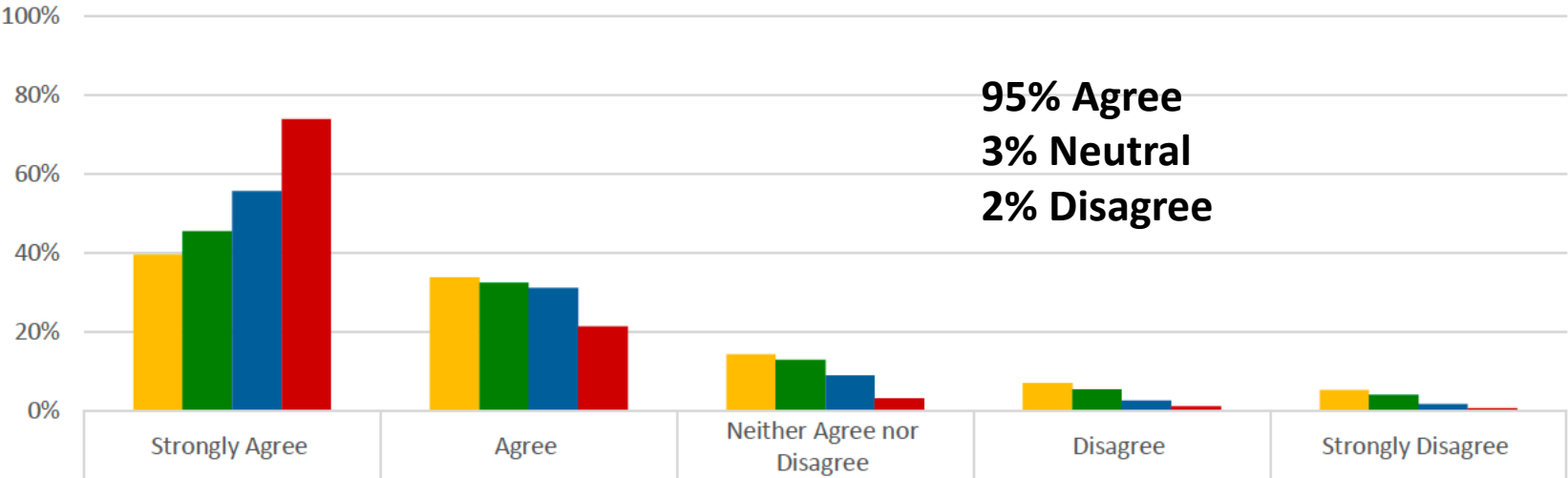
Governmentwide	41%	35%	12%	7%	5%
Large Agencies (10,000-74,999 employees)	43%	35%	12%	6%	4%
Department of Commerce	47%	36%	10%	5%	2%
National Institute of Standards and Technology	56%	30%	7%	4%	2%

# Employee Viewpoint Survey: COVID Safety Priority



COVID-19 Work Effects

Q56: In the phased return of employees to the agency worksite (i.e., opening up government), my organization has made employee safety a top priority.



95% Agree  
3% Neutral  
2% Disagree

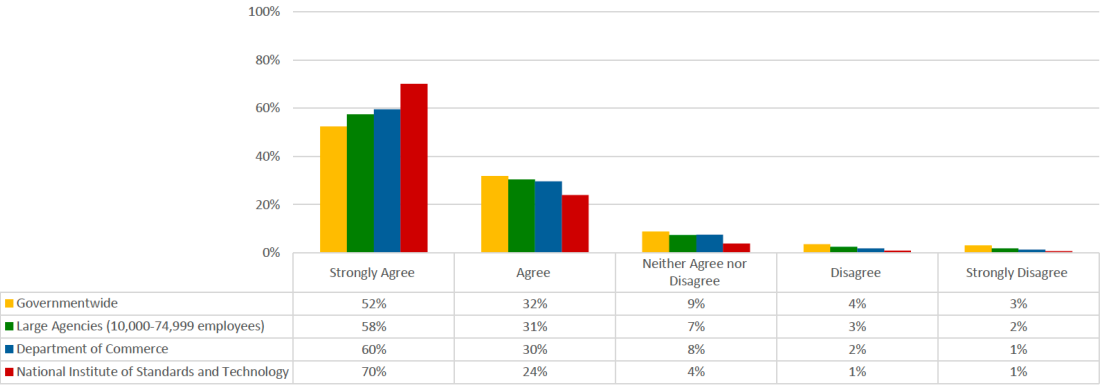
Governmentwide	40%	34%	14%	7%	5%
Large Agencies (10,000-74,999 employees)	46%	32%	13%	5%	4%
Department of Commerce	56%	31%	9%	3%	2%
National Institute of Standards and Technology	74%	21%	3%	1%	1%

# Employee Viewpoint Survey: Supervisors and COVID Safety



COVID-19 Employee Support

Q47: During the COVID-19 pandemic my supervisor has...shown concern for my health and safety.

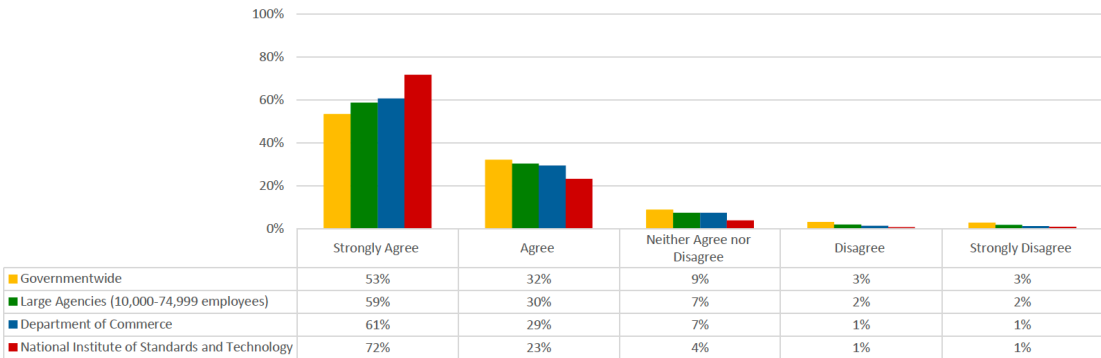


## Immediate Supervisors

- Concern for Health and Safety, 94% agree
- Support Efforts to Stay Safe, 95% agree
- Raise Concerns, 91% agree

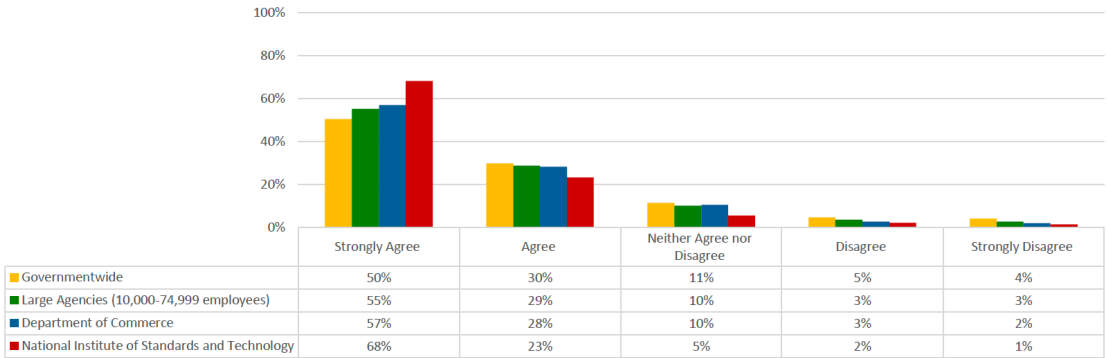
COVID-19 Employee Support

Q48: During the COVID-19 pandemic my supervisor has...supported my efforts to stay healthy and safe while working.



COVID-19 Employee Support

Q49: During the COVID-19 pandemic my supervisor has...created an environment where I can voice my concerns about staying healthy and safe.





# Safety Program Deployment Status



## **Briefings Held in FY21**

- Machines and equipment (new)
- Management Observations Process (redeploy)
- Cryogen Safety (redeploy)

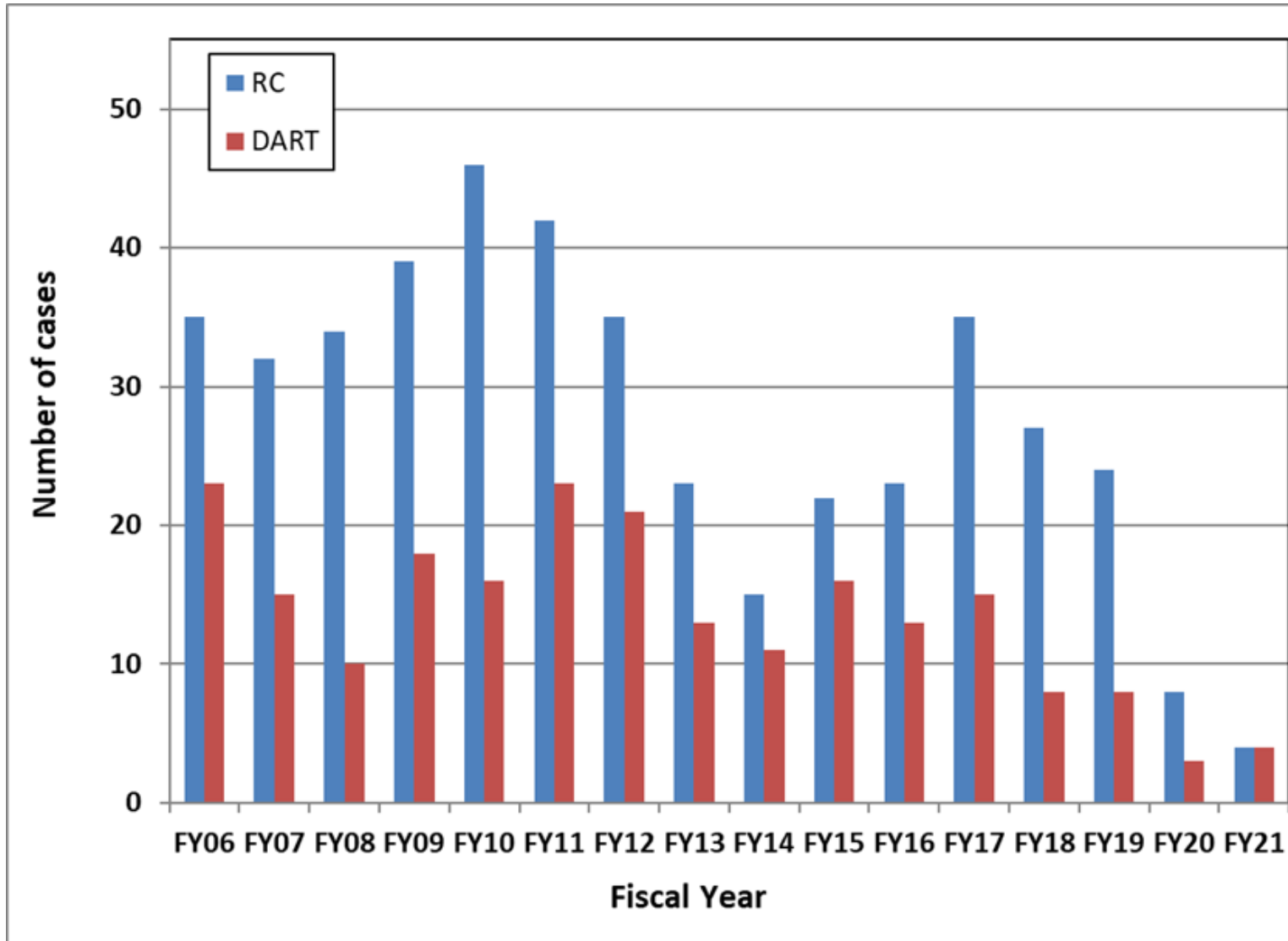
## **Briefings Planned for FY21/FY22**

- Compressed Gas Safety (re-deploy)
- Out of Service (new)
- Overhead Cranes and Hoists (new)
- Inspection Testing and Maintenance (new)
- Fall Protection (new)
- Laser Safety (new)

## **Deployments/Re-deployments**

- ✓ Standard briefings held
- ✓ No establishment of “effective date” until maximum telework is lifted
- ✓ Schedule for effective dates will be developed and issued in collaboration with SAC and ESC

# OSHA Recordable Cases (RC) and subset that represent Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART)



## FY21 to Date

- 9 Injuries
  - 4 Sprain/Strain
  - 3 Cuts/Lacerations
  - 1 Bruise/Contusion
  - 1 Concussion
- 4 OSHA Recordable (all DARTS)
- 3 Illnesses
- 2 are Recordable Hearing Loss Cases

# FY21 Occupational Health and Safety Initiatives



- Collaboration with NIST Enterprise Risk Management Office on assessment of incident and near miss data and on impact of COVID-19
- Developing a process for risk analysis of workplace inspection data and incident data to assist NIST with prioritization of mitigation efforts (remediation, awareness campaigns, etc.) and to flag NIST-wide issues
- Communications: New Website and a new communications/training specialist
  - Hazard Recognition, e.g. : Mitigating workplace reproductive hazards: [The Birds, the Bees, and  \$\text{NaN}\_3\$](#)
  - Incident Lessons Learned, e.g.: [Do “asbestos” you can to avoid exposure by requesting a penetration permit from OFPM](#)
  - Product Alerts, e.g.: [Safety Alert: Kidde Recalls TruSense Smoke and Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms](#)
  - Telework Safety Tips: [Anything "off" in your home office?](#)
  - COVID Reminders, e.g.,: [Maintaining good safety practices “on the home stretch.”](#)

## Current Risks

Emergency and pandemic readiness  
Changes in COVID-19 related risks

## Opportunities

Improve COOP and Pandemic Plan (ESO/OSHE)  
Maintain requirements, manage phases changes



Ageing infrastructure  
Safety of contractor operations  
Safety management system is not fully developed/implemented  
Safety complacency

Continue SCMMR prioritization  
Implement a robust contractor safety program  
Issue remaining requirements, services and tools to support implementation  
Build on current safety awareness and engagement to strengthen safety culture