

A **39 year old female** employee contracted **COVID-19** while working as a nurse in the emergency department at a local hospital.

The inspection determined that a total of 13 cases developed among the 380 employees in the Emergency Department in the two weeks prior to the victim's positive case. On August 26, 2021, the victim began to experience mild symptoms of COVID-19 while at work and reported these symptoms to her supervisor. She was provided a COVID-19 test which showed that she was positive for SARS-CoV-2. The victim was sent home to quarantine; however, was admitted to the hospital on September 5, 2021, where she was treated until her death. She passed on October 2, 2021.

The victim's job duties included having frequent, close exposure to the patients and staff in a facility with ongoing community transmission of COVID-19. She actively cared for patients who were suspected or known to be positive for COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to her diagnosis. The victim did not have any known exposures to COVID-19 outside of work.

During interviews, employees indicated that they had been provided training regarding the symptoms of COVID-19 and best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Employees stated that they cleaned the surfaces throughout the facility regularly during each shift using Super Sani-Cloth Germicidal Wipes. Employees stated that they were required to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and that if they began to experience symptoms they would be tested immediately. The employees stated that they wore surgical masks and gloves when performing their regular job duties but would also wear an isolation gown, eye protection, and fit tested respirator when performing aerosol generating procedures on patients suspected or known to have COVID-19.

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:** **Serious** **\$4,500**

29 CFR 1910.134(a)(2): A respirator was not provided by the employer to each employee when such equipment was necessary to protect the health of the employee:

Covid-19---Insp #1555862 Vanderbilt University Medical Center

The employer did not ensure that employees with close contact to COVID-19 positive or suspected positive patients wore a respirator on a required basis.

