

April 4, 2022

Douglas L. Parker
Assistant Secretary for Labor for Occupational Safety and Health
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Occupational Exposure to COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings (Docket No. OSHA-2020-0004)

Dear Assistant Secretary Parker:

Vizient, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Notice of a limited reopening of comment period regarding the rule, "Occupational Exposure to COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings" (hereinafter, "Notice"), as many of the topics included in the Notice have a significant impact on our members and the patients they serve.

Vizient, Inc. provides solutions and services that improve the delivery of high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance for more than 50% of the nation's acute care providers, which includes 95% of the nation's academic medical centers, and more than 20% of ambulatory providers. Vizient provides expertise, analytics, and advisory services, as well as a contract portfolio that represents more than \$100 billion in annual purchasing volume, to improve patient outcomes and lower costs. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vizient has offices throughout the United States.

In the Notice, OSHA indicates it is partially reopening the comment period to allow for additional public comment on specific topics regarding the COVID-19 safety requirements in healthcare settings, with comments due by April 22, 2022. In addition, the Notice also indicates that OSHA will hold, on April 27, 2022, an informal public hearing on its interim final rule that established an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for occupational exposure to COVID-19. As organizations have limited time and resources to review and comment on the information provided in the Notice, or to potentially attend or speak at the informal public hearing, Vizient urges OSHA to extend the deadline for which it will accept written comments for at least an additional 30 days.

Vizient appreciates OSHA's efforts to gain additional feedback regarding the ETS. Vizient membership includes a variety of hospitals ranging from independent, community-based hospitals to large, integrated health care systems that serve acute and non-acute care needs. As hospitals continue to struggle with resource constraints and workforce challenges, it is important that OSHA consider these changes in evaluating whether a reasonable timeline for comments has been provided. In closing, on behalf of Vizient, I would like to thank OSHA for providing the opportunity to request additional time to respond to the Notice. Please feel free to contact me, or Jenna Stern at jenna.stern@vizientinc.com, if you have any questions or if Vizient may provide any assistance as you consider this request.

Respectfully submitted,



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Vizient, Inc.