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## Fw: PA Dept of Health email - SARS-CoV-2 Air Sampling Method Inquiry

Tis the link to OSHA.gov regarding face coverings.....  
Items #3 and #5 under face coverings

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/faqs#cloth-face-coverings>

-Kelly Miller

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**From:** Miller, Nathan <narmille@pa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:30 PM

**To:** kmillertime@msn.com <kmillertime@msn.com>

**Cc:** McCaskill, Michael <mmccaskill@pa.gov>; Nair, Anil <anair@pa.gov>; Harduar Morano, Laurel <lharduar@pa.gov>

**Subject:** SARS-CoV-2 Air Sampling Method Inquiry

Good afternoon Kelly,

I am emailing you as a follow up to our previous phone conversation regarding air sampling methods for the collection of viable SARS-CoV-2. In my effort to address your inquiry, I worked with colleagues within our bureau and we also reached out to our federal partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for their expert guidance.

Based upon this collaborative work, the following guidance is from CDC/NIOSH and PADOH.

- Currently, there are no validated air sampling methods for the collection of viable SARS-CoV-2. Without a validated method and information on the limit of detection or an estimated infectious dose, the value of air sampling in field applications is minimal or even potentially detrimental. If the sensitivity of the method is not near the infectious dose concentration, a negative air sample for SARS-CoV-2 could not be interpreted as this would leave much room for misinterpreting data and drawing conclusions that could put workers at risk (e.g., stating that respiratory protection is not needed because no virus found in air). And while polymerase chain reaction (PCR) detection of viral RNA may indicate viral shedding occurred at some point, equating detection of viral genetic material with viable virus—virus which can cause infection—can be misleading and is a concern.

I hope you find this information helpful and that you'll be able to move forward with your workplace hazard assessments. If you have any questions or additional environmental health concerns, please feel free to reach back out to me for assistance.

With best regards,

**Nathan R. Miller** (he, him, his)  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology  
PA Department of Health | Bureau of Epidemiology  
Health and Welfare Building, Room 926  
625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
P: 717.787.3350 | F: 717.772.6975  
[narmille@pa.gov](mailto:narmille@pa.gov)  
[www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)  
[www.health.pa.gov/topics/envirohealth](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/envirohealth)



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