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This issue of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Update focuses on recent questions to the TAC on identifying mitigations or strategies related to exposure to infectious diseases.

Featured Resources

Using Your Safety Management System (SMS) to Mitigate Infectious Disease and Respiratory Hazard Exposure: Provides resources to support transit agencies in identifying mitigations or strategies related to infectious disease exposure and other respiratory hazards.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Requirements Webinar: Provides an overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Updates to Requirements for ASPs: Includes information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements for agencies required to have an ASP under the PTASP regulation.

The Role of Data in Safety Risk Assessment: Shares information on how agencies can strengthen Safety Risk Management by leveraging data during the safety risk assessment process.

PTASP Hazards and Consequences Self-Guided Learning Tool: Provides an overview of the differences between hazards and consequences to assist agencies in improving safety risk assessments under their Safety Management System.

Access the entire TAC Resource Library by visiting FTA's PTASP TAC website.

Need Assistance?

Contact the **PTASP TAC** at

PTASP-TAC@dot.gov

1-87 PTASP-AID
1 (877) 827-7243

Contact the TAC for **one-on-one technical sessions** for Agency Safety Plan (ASP) development and implementation support and voluntary ASP reviews.

State Safety Oversight (SSO) NPRM

On November 15, 2023, FTA published an NPRM in the *Federal Register* (Docket No. FTA-2023-0008) proposing revisions to the SSO regulation to implement new requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)), remove outdated references, and simplify notification requirements. **Submit comments on the proposed changes by February 15, 2024.**

FTA hosted a webinar about the NPRM on November 30, 2023.

Presentation | Recording

Please note: The Q&A Highlights below, as well as the PTASP Frequently Asked Questions, pertain to the PTASP Final Rule in effect as of July 19, 2019, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law statutory requirements in 49 U.S.C. 5329(d). They do not pertain to the PTASP Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published April 26, 2023 in the *Federal Register*.

Q & A Highlights

Question:

How can we meet the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirement regarding strategies to minimize exposure to infectious diseases in our ASP?

FTA Response:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires agencies to include, in their ASP, strategies to minimize exposure to infectious diseases, consistent with guidelines from either the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or a State health authority. Transit agencies are not required to address guidance that is not applicable to their system. FTA encourages transit agencies to consider identifying mitigations or strategies related to exposure to infectious diseases through the Safety Risk Management process described in their ASP.

Question:

When addressing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirement regarding strategies to minimize infectious disease exposure, can we add our infectious disease plan to the ASP as an attachment?

FTA Response:

In its Dear Colleague Letter, FTA specifies that in addressing this requirement, each transit agency should consider identifying mitigations or strategies related to exposure to infectious diseases through the Safety Risk Management process described in its ASP. Your agency may also choose to add its infectious disease plan to the ASP as a separate attachment.

Proposed General Directive 24-1: Required Actions Regarding Assaults on Transit Workers

On December 20, 2023, FTA published a proposed General Directive on Required Actions Regarding Assaults on Transit Workers in the *Federal Register* (Docket No. FTA-2023-0032).

Submit comments on the proposed general directive by February 20, 2024.