Use Your ISO 45001 OHSMS to Address COVID-19 in your Workplace

Your organization's OHSMS based on ISO 45001 can provide you with a structured pathway for ensuring health & safety considerations of COVID-19 are addressed to prevent workplace exposure and minimize recurrence of business disruption in the future. Some aspects of your OHSMS to consider include:

1. Add COVID-19 virus exposure to business risks, (4.1, 6.1.1)
2. Verify that relevant interested parties and their requirements related to COVID-19 are identified, (employees, regulators, etc.), (4.2)
3. Identify any new, (including near-term temporary as well as permanent) regulations from federal, state and local authorities as well as internal/corporate guidelines, (6.1.3)
4. Update Hazard & Risk registers, (plant-wide and process-specific) to include hazard of exposure to COVID-19 virus, related operational/business risks and implemented controls, (temperature screening on entry, social distancing, etc.), (6.1.2.1, 6.1.2.2, 8.1.2)
5. Define near and long-term action plans, (including current task forces) to address risks and legal/other requirements related to COVID-19, (6.1.4)
6. Identify specific resource needs, (PPE, cleaning supplies, etc.) to support implementation of processes and controls to address COVID-19 risks, (7.1)
7. Update Emergency Action Plan to include specific actions to identify, isolate, control spreading, etc. of COVID-19 in your business, (8.2)
8. Update Contingency Plans and Business Continuity Plans to include pandemics and lessons learned from COVID-19, (8.2)
9. Identify and document any new policies/processes to be introduced in your organization to manage potential risks associated with COVID-19 exposure, (8.1.1)
10. Consider how to involve employees and other key interested parties in the above-listed activities, especially in establishing new workplace policies and controls for managing COVID-19 exposure, (5.4)
11. Determine training, awareness and communications, (internal & external) needed to support effective implementation of COVID-19 prevention policies, processes, controls, (7.2, 7.3, 7.4)
12. Consider the need for interim OHSMS objectives to monitor implementation and effectiveness of actions taken to address COVID-19 exposure risks in the workplace, (6.2)