

Forecasting of changes in OSH after the COVID-19 pandemic

OSHRI published research report forecasting changes in OSH in the post-COVID-19 era

What will the issues and challenges of OSH be in the post-COVID-19 era?

- The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI) (Director General: Eun-a Kim) has published “New Challenges of OSH in the Post-COVID-19 Era” to guide research on occupational safety and health (OSH) in the post-COVID-19 era.
 - This report is composed of four main topics: ▲ change in the employment and labor environment and blind spots of safety and health caused by COVID-19, ▲ prevention of accidents and death in the post-COVID-19 era, ▲ digital-based workplaces and working from home safely, and ▲ approach to occupational health for workers in occupational health blind spots.
 - The OSHRI has also suggested 10 research topics related to the roles and responses of OSH in the post-COVID-19 era, and announced its plan to conduct research on these topics starting next year.
- The research report collected, and reflected in its results, opinions of people from all walks of life gathered through six relay forums held in April and May under the topic “OSH Forecast and Challenges in the Post-COVID-19 Era.”
 - The forums covered several topics: ▲ safety of platform laborers with a focus on delivery workers and safety of logistic center workers amid the expansion of the online distribution market (Apr. 6), ▲ measures to protect the health of platform and care workers (Apr. 9), ▲ assessment of changes in the safety and health environment with the expansion of working from home and identification of risks (Apr. 22), ▲ legal and institutional measures to protect vulnerable groups and blind spots of safety and health (Apr. 28), ▲ risk assessment of the increasing use of robots in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Apr. 29), ▲ OSH forecast and future challenges in the post-COVID-19 era (May. 27).
 - The forums are publicly available on OSHRI’s YouTube channel and can be watched by topic or speaker.
- The OSHRI report forecasting the post-COVID-19 era is published on its website (www.kosha.or.kr/oshri), so anyone who is interested can download the report.
- OSHRI Director General Eun-a Kim said, “We need to pay special attention to the changes in OSH caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and proactively prepare to ensure safety and health in the post-COVID-19 era.” She also added, “It is urgent to come up with new safety and health governance as the risks brought about by the pandemic are now becoming normalized.”



Cover page of Report on the New Challenges of OSH in the Post-COVID-19 Era [for image reference]

Attachment 2	Suggested OSH research items in the post-COVID-19 era (10 research items)
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Topic	No.	Name of research
Changes in employment and labor environment	1	Review of effectiveness of safety and health law and policy criteria reflecting the types of labor - Research to expand the criteria for work-related accidents
	2	Seeking protective measures for new vulnerable groups in terms of safety and health from a gender perspective in the pandemic era
Accident and death prevention	3	Research to suggest alternatives for preventing accidents of two-wheeled vehicle delivery platform workers
	4	Research to improve the safety of industrial robot systems by lifecycle
	5	Research to secure safety by lifecycle toward preventing large accidents at logistics centers
	6	Development of systematic accident analysis model and manual in consideration of industry characteristics
Vulnerable groups	7	Creation of dynamic industrial health system to respond to the emergence of new hazardous factors and new types of employment
	8	Means of facilitating collective intelligence in industrial health - Networking of small-scale workplaces and/or vulnerable workers
	9	Employment status of care workers and health protection measures
Working from home	10	Research to develop a guideline for maintaining health while working from home
10 research items per topic		

Attachment 3

Details of “OSH Forecast and Challenges in the Post-COVID-19 Era” forums
(held between Apr. 6 and May 27)

Time	Topic
Apr. 6 (Tues.) 14:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Securing safety of platform laborers: with a focus on delivery workers - Presentation: platform labor from the perspective of delivery, social issues of two-wheeled vehicle delivery platform workers, and measures to strengthen the safety net for delivery platform workers - Discussion: change of network structure and workforce trends, status of industrial accidents, and results of fact-finding surveys conducted inside and outside of Korea ○ Risks of logistics centers with the expansion and transformation of the online distribution market - Presentation: current status of safety in the construction of logistics centers and future responses - Discussion: institutional and social issues, operational status of logistics centers and forecast of construction environment, status of industrial disasters, and derivation of implications through analysis of cases of fire accidents at logistics centers
Apr. 9 (Fri.) 14:00-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures to protect the health of platform workers - Presentation: cases of medical checkups of platform workers and measures to promote the health of platform workers ○ Measures to protect the health of care workers - Status of female workers’ safety and health risks in the post-COVID-19 era and policy issues (focusing on care workers)
Apr. 22 (Thur.) 14:00-15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Digital-based workplaces and working from home safely - Presentation: changes in safety and health environment brought about by the expansion of working from home, status of working from home and safety and health policy, risks of safety and health environment, cases of policy to support working from home, related Korean law and overseas policy (ILO, Europe, and U.S.), applicability and risks of working from home (focusing on case analysis of ILO, OSHA, literature, etc.), physical factors and health risks of working from home (electromagnetic waves, ambient and environmental noise, lighting, etc.), indoor dust and health risks, ergonomic problems and health risks, and psychosocial problems and health risks of working from home (sense of isolation, depression, etc.)
Apr. 28 (Wed.) 14:00-16:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection of vulnerable groups and safety and health blind spots (legal and institutional measures and prediction of risk factors and implications) - Presentation: magnitude of blind spots of social protection in the COVID-19 era and direction of alternative policy, direction for legal and institutional improvement to respond to the new labor environment, comparison of working environments before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and trend of changes and forecast by industry/type of employment during the pandemic
Apr. 29 (Thur.) 14:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risks of using robots, the number of which will soon match that of laborers - Presentation: co-existence of robots and humans and how to secure safety

and recent trends of robot safety and measures for technological response

- Discussion: trend of discussion to secure the safety of robots inside and outside the nation, measures to secure safety through fact-finding analysis of robot use, forecast of robot use, robot safety issues, status of industrial accidents involving industrial robots, and cases and implications of Korean and international accidents involving intelligent robots

○ Targets of deadly accident prevention and research topics in the post-COVID-19 era

May. 27 (Thur.) 14:00-16:10	○ Forecast of OSH and future challenges in the post-COVID 19 era (open discussion)
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