

Champion of COVID Response

Brad Short

Industrial Hygienist

General Services Administration

Years of Service: 9.75 (7/9/2012 to Present)



Summary:

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the U.S. General Services Administration's mission and required extraordinary responsiveness and innovation. Bradley Short was a key individual in delivering an effective response and providing customer support as the GSA Great Lakes Region's industrial hygienist. Brad's expert insight, outstanding customer service skill and ability to create collaborative solutions were instrumental in addressing numerous COVID-19 incidents and issues in the region.

Description: COVID-19 incidents in U.S. General Services Administration buildings within the Great Lakes Region (Region 5) have required an immediate interpretation of a situation and its impact to tenants and property. These impacts had to be evaluated and an effective response created while knowledge of the virus was evolving. Regional staff and tenants turned to Region 5 Industrial Hygienist Bradley Short for understanding of the situation and a clear solution to their concerns and problems. Brad needed to explain and address complex technical situations to protect human health. Brad also worked to address indirect impacts from COVID, such as possible lead and bacteria impacts to drinking water systems and indoor air quality, all related to reduced occupancy in federal buildings. Brad also led an effort to coordinate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate these impacts believed to be caused by reduced occupancy.

Brad quickly adjusted his work load to accomplish this major responsibility. He was available for individual consultation and explanation of COVID situations and responses, providing clear and concise guidance. Brad also worked with the national industrial hygiene program to influence guidance and policy for the agency. He capitalized on an opportunity to influence a national effort in a positive way. Brad's outstanding communication skills and positive attitude were instrumental in resolving each COVID-19 incident quickly and completely.

The Great Lakes Region has had almost 1,000 COVID incidents to date. Two-thirds of these incidents required cleaning, and Brad had direct positive input on a majority of these incidents. The Region has been able to achieve a close-out rate of 98% of these incidents due to a collaborative effort and Brad's essential participation.