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* Diagnosed Alpha-1
Antitrypsin deficient
+ Diagnosed family member

March 20, 2020

Re: Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficient Patients in the Workplace during COVID-19

To Whom It May Concern:

Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (Alpha-1) is a genetic condition that causes lung and liver disease in adults. Alpha-1 leads to greatly reduced levels of a protein that provides the body's major defense against lung inflammation.

Your employee has Alpha-1 and is likely at greatly increased risk of developing severe lung problems if infected with COVID-19. This risk is even greater if your employee is over 65 years old and/or if they already have lung disease related to Alpha-1.

Based on this knowledge, your employee should be offered the opportunity to work from home or be provided with paid time off to self-isolate, if this is possible. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Sandhaus, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Program

Clinical Director, Alpha-1 Foundation
Medical Director, AlphaNet & AlphaNet Canada

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