

Will temperature checks of employees make workplaces safe?

2 June 2020, by The Associated Press



Illustration by Peter Hamlin

make a person too hot, or by cosmetic wipes that cool the skin, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA says the thermometers should be used in a draft-free area and out of [direct sunlight](#).

What's a normal body temperature and what's feverish? The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gives 100.4 degrees as a guideline for [fever](#).

© 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Will temperature checks of employees make workplaces safe?

No, not completely. They can help reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections but shouldn't be the only safety measure employers take.

Some employers are following White House guidelines to screen workers for a fever with daily temperature checks to help prevent the spread of infections.

But screening for fevers alone won't eliminate risk. People with the virus can be contagious without a fever, so it's still important for employers to increase space between workers, disinfect surfaces and encourage [hand washing](#).

A person's temperature can be taken with a no-touch infrared thermometer pointed at the forehead, and workers can use the devices to take their own temperatures, using hand sanitizer before and after.

However, the accuracy of infrared thermometers can be thrown off by headbands or bandannas that

APA citation: Will temperature checks of employees make workplaces safe? (2020, June 2) retrieved 20 May 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-temperature-employees-workplaces-safe.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.