

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – FEBURARY 2004

As you know, APIC has been busy responding to OSHA's recent decision to include *M. Tuberculosis* under the General Industry Respiratory Protection Standard. We are now asking for your help in mobilizing Chapter members to contact OSHA. Attached, is a template letter for your use.

Please have Chapter members add their facility-specific information and anything else that they would like to share, in order to convey how this decision will impact their facilities. Please advise them to save a copy of their letters, in the event that we mount another campaign that includes contacting Members of Congress.

Two items may be of additional help to you in crafting your letter: 1) APIC's official letter to OSHA is on the Homepage of the APIC Web site www.apic.org (near the top); 2) the American Hospital Association's letter to OSHA is also available on their Web site (www.aha.org), along the left hand side of their Home Page, under What's New.

If possible, please encourage APIC members to have other health care professionals in their facilities sign onto their letters, or these facility colleagues may write separately using the same template. Ideally, OSHA should hear from ICPs, employee health professionals, safety officers, and/or administrators -- anyone who will be affected by this policy. Your administrators and other key folks already may have seen a copy of the AHA letter, and may be interested in helping.

You should send your letters by regular mail, to the address on the template letter, making sure all your contact information is complete and legible. Please write as soon as possible, preferably by February 29th. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Thomas Barrows at jthomas@apic.org for assistance. We also invite you to email a copy of your letter to Jennifer, so that we may gauge our response.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important issue.