

# HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Comprehensive programs and services for area employers

## U.S. Regulations of Labor Relations for Occupational Noise Exposure

- **Standard 1910.95(c)(1)** The employer shall administer a continuing, effective hearing conservation program whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 decibels measured on an A scale (slow response) or, equivalently, a dose of 50 percent.
- **Standard 1910.95(d)(1)** When information indicated that any employees' exposure may equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels, the employer shall develop and implement a monitoring program.
- For full details of these standards and regulations, visit [osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov).

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Noise can damage your hearing. Current lifestyles and technology have changed to the point that almost all of us are exposed to potentially dangerous noise levels both recreationally and occupationally.

Individual employees, employers and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are all concerned about noise in the workplace. Ideally, the sources of damaging noise should be identified and engineering controls implemented to reduce noise levels. Completing this task is not always financially or technically possible, but it's an area constantly being studied by industry.

Managerial controls and an effective Hearing Conservation Program are ways that today's employers comply with OSHA regulations and protect their employees' hearing until the source of the damaging noise level is no longer a problem.

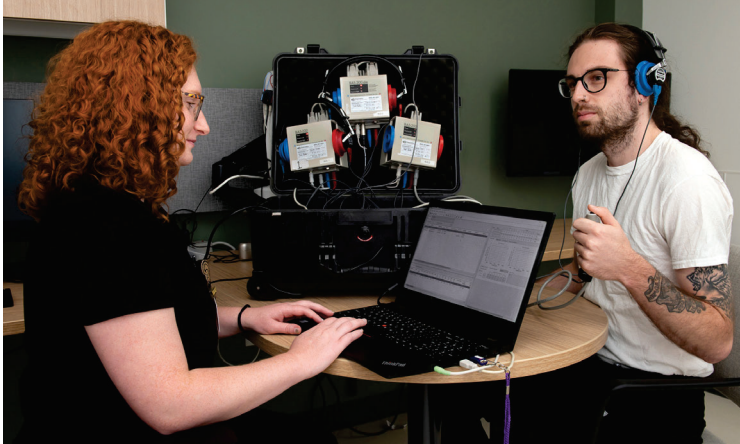
For many years, Gundersen Health System has been assisting area employers with their occupational health needs. Gundersen's staff is certified by the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) and can assist with keeping you in compliance with OSHA 1910 regulations.



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## Gundersen Health System's Hearing Conservation Program

- Reduced-rate audiograms (hearing tests) will be performed by certified technicians and/or audiologists at participating clinic locations in: Prairie du Chien, Tomah, Viroqua and Whitehall, Wis.; Decorah and West Union, Iowa; and Winona, Minn.



- Audiograms are also available at our Occupational Health locations in La Crosse, Onalaska and Winona by calling (608) 775-6345.
- Gundersen Health System now utilizes a portable, boothless audiometric system with OSHA compliant ambient noise level monitoring in quiet spaces available at the worksite.
- Flexible scheduling options are available to conform to your business hours and eliminate employee time away from the worksite.
- Employees will be informed of their preliminary results immediately after completion of the test.
- Employers receive a thorough report of all results, and this information is also entered in your Hearing Conservation Program audiogram records on file at Gundersen Health System.
- All information concerning each individual is kept strictly confidential and is used only to monitor the effectiveness of the Hearing Conservation Program.
- This program provides assistance in selection of the best hearing protection devices for your work environment.

### For More Information

A Hearing Conservation Program with Gundersen Health System protects your employees from



hearing loss and protects you, as an employer, by staying in compliance with current OSHA regulations. The extensive record-keeping, as part of the Hearing Conservation Program, also provides invaluable protection against unfounded legal claims regarding hearing loss. Please contact Gundersen Business Health Services at (608) 775-8700 or email [businesshealthservices@gundersenhealth.org](mailto:businesshealthservices@gundersenhealth.org).

### About Gundersen Health System

Gundersen is part of Bellin and Gundersen Health System. Formed in December 2022, Bellin and Gundersen is a not-for-profit, patient-centered, community-focused healthcare network with headquarters in Green Bay and La Crosse, Wisconsin. Bellin and Gundersen has nearly 15,000 employees, including more than 1,000 clinicians, in 11 hospitals and more than 100 clinic locations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Upper Michigan and Iowa. With community partners, Bellin and Gundersen strives to lead local, regional and national healthcare transformation to enrich individuals for their healthiest lives at every stage. Learn more at [bellin.org](http://bellin.org) and [gundersenhealth.org](http://gundersenhealth.org).

## GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM®

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