

Stratadx Boosts Employee Readiness with On-Demand Training From VelocityEHS

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Sarah Michaud

Quality, Safety, and Compliance Manager
StrataDx

Headquartered in Lexington, Massachusetts, StrataDx is a lab that delivers leading-edge pathology diagnostic services to a variety of clients. Its work includes analyzing medical specimens and creating slides that help healthcare professionals diagnose medical conditions, cancers, and other serious diseases. Since 2011, it has used the VelocityEHS SDS management solution. More recently, it looked into how VelocityEHS could also provide on-demand training for its employees.

Sarah Michaud, Quality, Safety and Compliance Manager at StrataDx, was instrumental in making the transition to VelocityEHS on-demand training.

"We have about 120 employees who all require some degree of training," says Ms. Michaud. "Our lab employees require the most. In addition to OSHA, we have accrediting agencies and state inspectors who come through and frequently want to verify employee training. We used to use binders full of physical certificates showing which employees had taken

which trainings. It was a challenge to find anything quickly when an inspector was here. We knew there were better ways of handling this, so we made the move to e-trainings from VelocityEHS."

Ms. Michaud says adopting VelocityEHS on-demand trainings made a positive impact right away.

"The on-demand training definitely helped everything become much easier," says Ms. Michaud. "Tracking required training is so simple now. We do the bloodborne pathogen and chemical hygiene trainings, as well as general lab safety overview, workplace safety orientation, and SDS training. I've also created some of my own training which I've uploaded to the system. With this solution, I can instantly see who has finished and passed which trainings, and I can easily pull up this information for an inspector. In fact, we had a New York State inspector for pathology labs come in, and I did exactly this. The inspector thought VelocityEHS was a wonderful way to keep it all organized."

StrataDx

- Leading provider of pathology diagnostic services
- Has on-site 120 employees requiring regular training
- A VelocityEHS customer since 2011

In addition to making things run easier and more smoothly, Ms. Michaud says on-demand training from VelocityEHS has had a real impact on her bottom line.

"For some of our trainings, like blood-borne pathogens, we used to have to hire someone to come in and do the presentation live for employees," she explains. "Not only was that expensive, but our lab operates 24-hours during the workweek, so he'd have to come in three times to accommodate all shifts. And if someone was sick or had the day off? Well, that was really hard to work out logistically! Using on-demand trainings has saved us both time and money in this scenario. Now, any employee can take the e-training when they have time. That makes an impact on our workflow, and makes it easier on people around the office."

When asked what advice she would give companies considering the move to an on-demand training solution, Ms. Michaud said she encourages them to push through any initial resistance by focusing on the greater long-term benefits of the system.



"You are always going to get some pushback from computer-challenged employees when you talk about moving to e-training," explains Ms. Michaud. "But there are so many good reasons to fight against that. With an electronic system that administers periodic quizzes during the training, the trainees are actually held accountable for their learning, so they have to pay attention and can't just sit there and 'zone out.' Managers will like it too, because they won't have to stop workflow so everyone can go to a training presentation. In addition, your own work as a safety professional will be so much easier — from tracking employee participation to being prepared for a visit from an accrediting agency or OSHA. It's worth the fight!"

Ms. Michaud concludes by noting that — most importantly of all — she feels the on-demand training has improved StrataDx's incident readiness.

"It's helped us manage compliance and regulations, but the on-demand trainings have also left us better prepared in terms of safety. If there was an emergency, the employees would know what to do. That's the best benefit of all."

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