Dear Employer,

This letter is to alert you and your workers to possible respiratory disease from breathing hop dust.

We ask that you take time during the hop harvest to monitor whether any workers have breathing problems.

If you have workers with breathing problems from hop dust:  
• Consider transferring them to a position without exposure to hop dust.  
• Ask the worker to see a health care provider.  
• Continued exposure may lead to worse health outcomes.

To protect your workers, please consider the following steps:  
• Assess the exposures to hop dust at your facility.  
  o Exposure to concentrated dust should be minimized or avoided by all workers  
• Educate and train workers on the hazards of agricultural dusts, like hop dust.  
• Get more information and help:  
  o Please call the SHARP Program at 1-888-667-4277 if you would like more information and guidance on assessing exposures or reducing worker exposure to hop dust. SHARP is a non-regulatory research and prevention program in the Department of Labor and Industries. For SHARP research projects, employer identity is protected by law.*

Sincerely,

Dave Bonauto, MD
Occupational Physician

Carolyn Whitaker, MS, CIH
Certified Industrial Hygienist

SHARP Program: http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research

* RCW 49.17.210 Employer identity, employee identity, and personal identifiers of voluntary participants in research, experiments, and demonstrations shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection.