

Maryland Joins List of States with Mask Mandates

Jul 31, 2020



Following a recent order from the Maryland governor, masks will be required for Maryland employees (with exceptions) effective 5 p.m. on July 31. The order explains that everyone over the age of five is required to wear a mask when using public transportation, when indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted, when outdoors and unable to consistently stay at least six feet apart from individuals who are not members of their household, when obtaining healthcare services, and when working in any area where interaction with others is likely, including in shared areas of commercial offices or where food is prepared or packaged.

The Maryland requirement is consistent with the mask requirements in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia. Face coverings are required for all employees, unless:

- An employee in a particular position is prohibited by a law or regulation from wearing a face covering while on the job
- Wearing a face covering on the job is against documented industry best practices
- Wearing a face covering is not advisable for health purposes
- Wearing a face covering is a violation of a company's safety policies
- There is a practical reason a face covering cannot be worn by an employee

Even when not at work, do your part!

Wearing a mask when you go to the store, are out in public or meeting with anyone outside of your household can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Remember to be vigilant and wear a mask even around family and friends – for their health and yours.

- An employee is working alone in the following situations:
 - In the cab of a vehicle
 - In rights of way or remote areas with practically no chance of interacting with others
 - In the bucket of a utility truck
 - In a personal workspace or work site where others cannot freely enter
 - In the office at a workspace where social distancing can be maintained. Note however, a mask must be worn at all other times when social distancing may not be assured, like when entering and exiting the building, walking down hallways, while in break rooms, riding an elevator, etc.

We continue to monitor all orders and requirements from the states we serve, and we will notify employees if any new orders result in changes to our health and safety guidelines and protocols.

The [Workplace Return Guide](#) is being updated to reflect this new requirement. The Guide can be found on the *FirstEnergy Today* portal, the [Corporate Health & Safety SharePoint](#) site or [MyFirstRewards.com](#). Check the *FirstEnergy Today* portal regularly for additional updates that are made to this guide as the situation evolves.

Please print and post important information for employees who do not access the portal routinely.