

OH Governor Clarifies Mask Requirement

Apr 30, 2020



On Monday, the Ohio Governor outlined the multi-staged process to gradually reopen the state that included five protocols all companies must follow. While the requirement for social distancing, routine hand washing, frequent disinfecting and daily temperature checks were clear, there was some uncertainty around the requirement to wear masks. Recently, the governor clarified the mask requirement.

Beginning May 4, in Ohio a face mask must be worn by employees while working in and around FirstEnergy service centers, office buildings and on job sites, with a number of exceptions. 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
- If wearing a face covering is a violation of a company's safety policies
- An employee is sitting alone in an enclosed workspace, which would also apply to employees:
 - Alone in the cab of a vehicle,
 - Working alone in right of ways, remote areas where practically no chance of interacting with others, etc.
 - Remote job site locations
 - Alone in the bucket of a utility truck
 - Working alone in a personal workspace or work site where others cannot freely enter

There is a practical reason a face covering cannot be worn by an employee

Face masks are now required for employees in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Ohio. A large quantity of surgical-type masks as well as a smaller quantity of FR-masks have been distributed to locations across the organization.

Employees who have purchased or made their own masks may wear them while working. Employees performing work on energized facilities may only wear masks that are FR-rated.

Anyone in need of a mask should ask their supervisor. Supervisors in need of masks or other supplies such as gloves, sanitizers and disinfectants, can place an order by sending an email to Medicalsupplyrequests@firstenergycorp.com.

Employees can find information on the company's response to COVID-19 on the *FirstEnergy Today* portal, the [Corporate Health & Safety SharePoint](#) site or MyFirstRewards.com. Please print and post important information for employees who do not access the portal routinely.