

WV Order Mandates Masks Indoors

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West Virginia's governor issued an order effective July 7 that requires everyone age 9 and over to wear face coverings in all indoor public places where social distancing cannot be maintained. While this may be a change for West Virginia residents, the company has been strongly encouraging all employees – including office workers, field employees and power plant personnel – to wear masks since the public health emergency began.

The West Virginia requirement follows the mask requirements in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which have been in place since April (see the [April 30 article](#) for more details).

Please note that this new West Virginia rule does not apply when employees are working outside. For those working in an office or generation plant, a mask is not required when an employee is working alone; working in a personal workspace where others cannot freely enter or where social distancing can be maintained; or when wearing a mask creates a safety issue.

Employees should thoroughly evaluate all social distancing options with their supervisor to help ensure they do not need to wear a mask at their desk. However, a mask must be worn at all other times when social distancing may not be assured, like entering and exiting the building, walking down hallways, while in break rooms, riding an elevator, etc.

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.