



News from Livingston County, NY

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Contact: Julie Barry, Grants and Public
Information Coordinator

Phone: 585-243-7051

Email: jbarry@co.livingston.ny.us

Governor Directs Employers to Provide Face Coverings to Essential Workers Interacting with Public

Geneseo, NY, April 15, 2020 — On Monday, April 13, 2020, Governor Cuomo released Executive Order 202.16, which, in part, requires employees of essential businesses, as well as state and local government authorities, to wear face coverings if they have direct interaction with the public. The face coverings must be provided by the employers at their own expense. This state directive will take effect on April 15, 2020 at 8:00PM.

Under Public Health Law, Section 12 or 12-b, local government or local law enforcement can enforce the directive.

According to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance on the Executive Order:

- See the [Empire State Development website](#) for information on businesses deemed to be essential;
- Face coverings include, but are not limited to: cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N-95 respirators, and face shields. Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#) for information on face coverings;
- Direct interaction with the public should be determined by the employer, but at a minimum, should include any employee who is routinely within close contact (i.e. six feet or less) with members of the public;
- Employees are allowed to use their own face coverings but should not be mandated to do so by their employer; and
- Employees who are unable to wear face coverings should consult with their employer to consider reasonable accommodations.

County Administrator Ian M. Coyle stated, "It is important for employers to protect their essential workers – those on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis day in and day out – from

unnecessary danger. In addition to social distancing, this is a step that will help protect our essential workers and further our community-wide efforts to slow the spread of the virus.”

Please click [here](#) to read the full text of Executive Order 202.16. Questions on this order can be directed to the Governor’s general inquiry phone line at 518-474-8390.

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