

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Update 44: May 24, 2021

CLARIFICATION OF MAY 28 LIFTING OF INDOOR MASK REQUIREMENT

Today, Governor Murphy announced [that effective May 28, the statewide indoor mask mandate will be lifted](#); however, ***masks will continue to be required in worksites that are closed to the public, which includes office spaces, warehouses, and manufacturing facilities.***

MAY 24, 2021

MASKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED IN:

- **Public-facing state offices, such as Motor Vehicle Commission agencies**
- **Worksites that are closed to the public, including warehousing and manufacturing facilities**



GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

There was some confusion as to whether the mask requirement was lifted for all settings, but unfortunately, until further notice, or until the Executive Orders mandating social distancing practices and protocols at the workplace expire or are rescinded, the mask mandate and other requirements for the workplace remain in place.

[Executive Order 242 signed by Governor Murphy states:](#)

1. Effective Friday, May 28, 2021, individuals in indoor public spaces are not required to wear masks, regardless of their ability to maintain six feet of distance from other individuals or groups. In accordance with CDC recommendations, individuals who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces.

2. **Further, "indoor public spaces" do not include indoor worksites of employers, as defined in Executive Order No. 192 (2020), that do not open their indoor spaces**

to the public for purposes of sale of goods, attendance at an event or activity, or provision of services.

3. As provided for in Executive Order No. 192 (2020), all individuals shall continue to wear face coverings in indoor workplaces that are not “indoor public spaces,” subject only to exceptions that have previously existed, such as when employees are at distanced workstations or in their own offices, and shall continue to maintain six feet of distance from others to the maximum extent possible, except in the circumstances described therein.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 192 & 122 (REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS, GLOVES, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING & DISINFECTING PROTOCOLS) ARE STILL PLACE.

[Executive Order 192](#) established protocols, protection and enforcement actions to better ensure workplace safety for all employers. Most of these protocols were already in place at essential manufacturing workplaces through EO 122, and related executive orders. EO 193 includes health screening prior to every shift, social distancing mandates in the workplace and other important safety measures. In addition, the EO will require the Department of Labor to develop worksite notices and materials and safety training program in concert with Rutgers University. Additionally, the EO establishes investigatory protocols, enhances employee notification of known exposure, assists employers with compliance and pursues enforcement actions when necessary.

EO 192 also states: *Where consistent, the requirements of this Order shall supplement the requirements outlined in any Executive Order, Administrative Order, or similar directive that apply to employers that have resumed operations prior to the effective date of this Order, including via Executive Orders Nos. 122, 125, 142, 145, 147, 149, 155, 157, 165, 175, 181 and 183 (2020). Where an already existing requirement is inconsistent with a requirement outlined in Paragraph 1 of this Order, the previously issued requirement shall continue to apply unless otherwise specified.*

Regarding [Executive Order 122](#), which requires employers to provide face coverings and gloves to employees who are still reporting to the workplace, and not working from home, members are expected to comply with the spirit of this EO.

Some manufacturing processes and other issues may prevent masks and/or gloves to be used. CCNJ recommends member companies to document the reason as to why face coverings cannot be used in certain processes, and to implement a protocol to wipe down or disinfect areas and maintain all other proper social distancing protocols. **You may even consider installing separation panels.**

The state strongly encourages employees who can perform their jobs while working from home, should be allowed to do so for the foreseeable future ([Executive Order 107, Paragraph 10](#)).

Please be advised, the state has established a reporting mechanism for employees and the public to [report any violations](#) in regard to the EO's via [NJ's COVID-19 portal](#). That is why we stress that member companies communicate directly to employees on how they are complying with the EO and providing a safe work environment and the new compliance standards established within the newly enacted [EO 192](#).

- The state's main COVID-19 information portal is located at <https://covid19.nj.gov/>.
- The state business COVID-19 information portal is located at <https://business.nj.gov/covid>.

[To access previous updates click here.](#)

NO COST ON-SITE POP-UP VACCINE CLINIC

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is helping to pair vaccine providers with employers to create on-site vaccine pop-up clinics to make the vaccine as convenient as possible to employees and their families. ***Please complete the [On-site Vaccine Clinic Interest Survey](#) if you would like to be considered to host a pop-up clinic on-site at no cost.***

Completing this survey is the first step to notify NJDOH and its partners of your interest. The NJDOH will be in touch to discuss how to help fulfill your request.

PLEASE NOTE: For those companies that applied to be a closed POD, if the Department of Health has not reached out to you about a Closed POD for your employees, we encourage you to consider the On-site Pop-up Vaccine Clinic, if you feel it will be worthwhile for your employees.

You must complete the survey above to be considered:
<http://healthsurveys.nj.gov/NoviSurvey/n/zz2mh.aspx>.

CDC / OSHA MANUFACTURING COVID-19 GUIDANCE

[Manufacturing Workers and Employers](#)

Interim Guidance from CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

[Click here to read more](#)