



Monday, April 20, 2020 4:35 PM
Subject: DOT Face Mask Availability

To All DOT Employees:

As a follow-up to Governor Lamont's email below to all of our state employees pertaining to Executive Order No.7BB, the Department of Transportation currently has surgical masks available for our employees. These masks are available at each Security Desk at DOT buildings for our employees who are reporting to their worksites.

All employees are required to wear face coverings (or higher level protection) in common areas or when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be sustained. Face coverings do not have to be surgical masks, or professional grade, and can be homemade.

We have attached the CT Department of Transportation COVID 19-Safety Bulletin which outlines how to put on and remove face masks.

Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time.

Brenda Abele
Agency HR Administrator

From: On Behalf Of Governor Lamont
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 7:43 AM
To: All State Government Employees
Subject: Update on coronavirus for all state agency employees

Dear fellow state employees,

On March 20, I signed the [executive order](#) directing all Connecticut residents to "Stay Safe, Stay Home" and suspending all nonessential in-person functions. Connecticut citizens responded willingly, knowing that the only way to slow the spread of COVID-19 was to take social distancing seriously. A month later, we can see that these efforts have bent the curve, but our work to contain this virus is not done. I am reminded of Winston Churchill's famous warning to the people of Great Britain during WWII: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

We need to take additional steps to minimize the rate of infection. That is why on Friday I signed [Executive Order No. 7BB](#), requiring all of us to wear face coverings (or higher level protection) whenever we are in public and close contact is unavoidable. Beyond wearing face coverings in stores and on public transportation, we need to be sure that our workplaces are safe. For that reason, I am directing all state employees to wear face coverings when they work outside their homes in areas where social distancing will be difficult, unless doing so would be contrary to their health or safety due to a medical condition.

Fortunately, the majority of our state workforce is now able to work from home. I applaud those of you who are working from home for your diligence in keeping the business of state government moving forward while getting used to this new mode of working. Clearly, you will not need to wear face coverings in your own homes. Many of our colleagues who must work outside the home are in positions that are categorized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as high-risk, primarily health care providers. We have been working non-stop acquire and provide medical-grade Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for those employees who are on the front lines of this crisis. Due to the global shortage of PPE, we must ensure that whatever medical-grade PPE we can obtain is distributed to workers in these high-risk jobs.

We also have a large number of employees who work outside the home to perform various essential functions that do not put them in the high-risk category. Individuals in these positions do not need medical-grade PPE but should still wear face coverings when they are at work. Even such non-medical grade face-coverings are in short supply. Accordingly, the CDC has issued guidelines explaining how to assemble their own, using readily available materials: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. In the event you are unable to make your own face covering please notify your agency HR, who will advise you how to obtain one provided by the state.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your continued hard work and perseverance during this difficult time. I am proud to work with you in our ongoing efforts to serve the citizens of this great state.

Stay safe!

Ned Lamont
Governor

