

Update on Face Coverings in the Workplace



Tom Modica
Mon 4/13/2020 6:51 AM
To: CLB-CityWide

6 | Reply | Reply all | Forward | ...



Dear City Employees:

The City continues to implement measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of this strategy includes ensuring that we provide safety equipment and workplace practices to ensure you are protected in the workplace. As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses we must adapt our strategies. I would like to give you an update on recent changes to our those strategies.

First of all I want to thank you for your continued support and hard work. Although our buildings are closed to the public, our vital services continue, from law enforcement, firefighters, dispatchers, refuse collection to health care workers, administrative staff and many others. I continue to be in awe of how our City employees continue to adapt and rise to challenge to provide our community with critical services.

Update City of Long Beach Response

Last Friday the City took further action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The City of Long Beach issued an [amendment](#) to the existing “Safer at Home” Order, in an effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need. The amendment provides additional and clarifying information regarding physical distancing requirements and mandates essential businesses to prepare, post and implement a Social Distancing Protocol at all operating facilities.

The order also specifies that face coverings are required by members of the public (1) any time a member of the public enters an essential business and (2) when a person is in close contact with others, excluding contact with members of a single household. “Close contact” means being within six feet of another person for 10 minutes or more.

Please make sure you are aware of these changes and help us spread the word to our community.

City Workplace and Face Coverings

The City will be implementing amended Health Order physical distancing measures in the workplace. Last Thursday, the Human Resources Department and Health and Human Resources Department issued guidance on face coverings for City employees (see attached document). Employees will be asked to utilize a face covering when closer than 6 feet to other individuals in the workplace or in public.

The City will be issuing cloth face coverings for employees. Due to the pandemic, face covering are in high demand and limited supply. As a stop gap measure the City purchased 6,000 white bandanas for City employee use. These bandanas have been distributed to your departments and are available for employees. The City also purchased 2,000 face coverings with loops that have been received and 1,500 have distributed to our first responders, with an additional 500 distributed today to employees (prioritizing those who have public contact). The City will be receiving approximately 300 face coverings a day and these will also be made available to all employees. You may also wear your own personal face covering. Please be assured that the City is working hard to ensure staff have to appropriate personal protective equipment at all times.

Please remember face coverings should not be used as a substitute for other evidence-based measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings should be used in addition to, but not in place of, other evidence-based measures such as: social distancing; frequent hand washing practices; avoiding touching our eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; and avoiding being around sick people. The best method is to simply keep your distance from others and wash your hands frequently.

To learn how to properly wear, clean, and make your own face covering, see the Center for Disease Control’s guidance on face coverings at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).

Face Coverings Needed

Face coverings are in short supply and we could use your help in ensuring our employees have face coverings. If you have sewing talents and are able to make face coverings please let us know. We can allow employees to make face coverings on City time. Please complete an online [form](#) if you are interested in providing assistance. The City will coordinate employee volunteers with your department.

Tom Modica
Acting City Manager

Reply | Reply all | Forward