



NEWS BRIEF

Cuomo Orders All New Yorkers to Wear Masks

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced he will issue an executive order “requiring all people in New York to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained, such as on public transportation.” The order will take effect on Friday, April 17.

This coincides with a previous executive order which requires New York businesses to provide essential workers with face masks to use when interacting with the public.



“Stopping the spread is everything.”

- Gov. Cuomo



The order to wear a mask will apply to all people in situations where they cannot shelter in place or practice 6 feet of social distancing, such as transit or grocery store workers.

Cuomo said New York was considering civil penalties for not wearing a mask under these circumstances, but definitely not criminal penalties.

According to the governor’s website, the administration is also working to increase testing of individuals by authorizing more health care professionals to conduct certain tests.

What’s next?

New York employers have been ordered to provide their essential workers with face masks to use when interacting with the public.

Employees can use their own masks, but employers are still required to provide them—including fashioning their own if need be. The governor’s office said it will release more guidance shortly.

In the meantime, businesses are encouraged to contact their local county office of emergency management if they cannot produce enough masks. However, not having enough masks does not eliminate the employer’s requirement under the executive order.

Be sure to follow all local laws to ensure the safety of your workers and to avoid penalties. Visit www.governor.ny.gov for more information.

