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Susanne R. Young, Secretary

TO: All State of Vermont Employees
FROM: Susanne Young, Secretary of Administration
DATE: July 28, 2020 (updated footnotes 7/29/20)
RE: Mask and Facial Covering Requirements

All your efforts to continue to adhere to public health and safety guidance that keeps all Vermonters safe are very much appreciated and a source of great pride for the Administration. You have certainly helped to keep trends in Vermont on a steady course during the ongoing pandemic with a positivity rate that is frequently the lowest in the country.

However, along with Vermont, all states in the region within a five-hour drive of Vermont's borders, have experienced community transmission of COVID-19. With college and pre K-12 students returning to school, and visitors making plans to enjoy Vermont's foliage and winter recreation seasons, the Governor has determined, in consultation with the Commissioner of Vermont Department of Health (VDH), that we should strengthen the State's policy on masks and facial coverings in order to protect public health and maintain the progress we have achieved in suppressing the virus.

Therefore, Governor Scott issued an Executive Order amendment effective ¹Saturday, August 1, 2020, that requires all Vermonters to wear masks or cloth facial coverings over their nose and mouth any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they come in contact with others from outside their households, especially in congregate settings, and where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet.

Those who are not required to use masks include those engaging in ²strenuous physical activity, those under the age of two, those with a medical or developmental condition that is complicated by a facial covering and those with difficulty breathing.

The amendment further states that businesses, non-profit and government entities shall implement measures notifying customers or clients of the requirement to wear masks or facial coverings.

To view the full amendment to the Executive Order, visit
<https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-2-amended-and-restated-executive-order-no-01-20>

¹ Updated 7/29/20

² Updated 7/29/20

Strengthened Mask Wearing Requirements

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Existing mask guidance that shall continue to apply includes:

- [Phased Restart Work Safe Guidance issued by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCD\)](#)
- [Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020 issued by the Agency of Education \(AoE\)](#)
- [Health Guidance for Childcare and School Age Camps/Care issued by VDH, AoE and the Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#)
- [Guidance to Healthcare Providers issued by VDH](#)

All employees are encouraged to lead by example and help educate Vermonters on the importance of wearing masks. VDH recently launched a Mask Education Campaign, and posters from the campaign are attached.

Please remember kindness and understanding of the challenges we are all facing, including not to pre-judge people who aren't able to wear facial coverings, goes a long way to keep Vermont strong and healthy.

Thank you all for continuing to step up to help protect yourselves and fellow Vermonters.

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