

Connecticut Requires Masks or Face Coverings in Public, at Essential Employers

By Tanya A. Bovée, Victoria Woodin Chavey and Russell N. Jarem

April 21, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont has issued an [Executive Order](#) mandating all persons in public places use masks or cloth face coverings if they are unable to, or do not, stay at least six feet from any other person. This also applies to employees reporting to work at essential employers. Those employers must provide masks or face coverings to their employees or provide materials, or reasonable compensation for the materials, to make masks.

Exceptions

The Order excepts from the mandate:

- Children in daycare, children under the age of two, and older children if a mask cannot safely be placed on the child's face; and
- Anyone whose health or safety could be jeopardized by the use of a mask or face covering because of a medical condition (such person cannot be required to produce medical documentation verifying the medical condition).

Employer Obligations

Essential employers must provide masks or face coverings to their employees or provide materials to make masks using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [tutorial](#).

Alternatively, if the employees secure their own mask-making materials, the employer must compensate them for the reasonable cost of the materials.

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development [guidance](#) provides that employees of essential employers must wear masks or face coverings "at all times while in the workplace."

Jackson Lewis has a [dedicated team](#) tracking and responding to the developing issues facing employers in this difficult time. If you need guidance in handling the complicated issues pertaining to COVID-19, please contact a Jackson Lewis attorney to discuss.

©2020 Jackson Lewis P.C. This material is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to constitute legal advice nor does it create a client-lawyer relationship between Jackson Lewis and any recipient. Recipients should consult with counsel before taking any actions based on the information contained within this material. This material may be considered attorney advertising in some jurisdictions. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Focused on labor and employment law since 1958, Jackson Lewis P.C.'s 950+ attorneys located in major cities nationwide consistently identify and respond to new ways workplace law intersects business. We help employers develop proactive strategies, strong policies and business-oriented solutions to cultivate high-functioning workforces that are engaged, stable and diverse, and share our clients' goals to emphasize inclusivity and respect for the contribution of every employee. For more information, visit <https://www.jacksonlewis.com>.

Meet the Authors



[Tanya A. Bovée](#)

Office Managing Principal
Hartford 860-522-0404
[Email](#)



[Victoria Woodin Chavey](#)

Principal
Hartford 860-331-1534
[Email](#)



[Russell N. Jarem](#)

Of Counsel
Hartford 860-522-0404
[Email](#)

©2020 Jackson Lewis P.C. All rights reserved. Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. No client-lawyer relationship has been established by the posting or viewing of information on this website.

*The National Operations Center serves as the firm's central administration hub and houses the firm's Facilities, Finance, Human Resources and Technology departments.