



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
Division of Occupational Safety and Health
P.O. Box 44600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-4600

June 16, 2020

Jan Gee, President & CEO
Tammie Hetrick, Vice President
Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA)
WFIA Educational Foundation (WFIAEF)
P.O. Box 706
Olympia, WA 98507-0706

Dear Jan Gee and Tammie Hetrick:

Governor Inslee's directive for Safe Start Washington requires that all workers are required to wear, at a minimum, cloth facial coverings when not working alone unless they are medically unable to do so. This is necessary to protect all other workers and customers in your store. The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries is tasked with the enforcement of this executive order as part of its worker health and safety regulatory authorization. Please advise vendors who are entering your stores to deliver supplies and/or stock shelves that they must wear face masks while delivering merchandise and interacting with others in your store at all times when not working completely alone.

Vendor employees not wearing a cloth face covering or mask is a violation of the Governor's executive order and is enforceable with penalties to the vendor's employer.

Sincerely,

Anne F. Soiza, L&I Assistant Director
Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention:

General Workplace Requirements – SUMMARY

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) requires employers to provide safe and healthy workplaces and to implement the Governor's order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Mandatory General Requirements for Employers*



Social Distancing

- Ensure employees keep at least six feet away from coworkers and the public when feasible.
- If social distancing isn't feasible, barriers and other proven prevention methods must be used to prevent transmission of coronavirus.
- Cloth face coverings, masks or respirators must be used for work where social distancing is not possible.



Frequent and Adequate Hand Washing

- Provide fixed or portable hand washing facilities with clean and hot or tepid water, soap, and paper towels.
- Require hand washing when arriving at work, taking breaks, using the bathroom, before and after eating, drinking or using tobacco products, and after touching contaminated surfaces.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations/supplies, wipes, or towelettes in portable containers to facilitate frequent hand sanitizing (between hand washing) after handling objects touched by others.



Routine and Additional Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing.
- Ensure adequate supplies for scheduled cleaning, and for deep cleaning and sanitizing after a suspected COVID-19 case.
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces often.
- Ensure employees use protective gloves and eye/face protection when handling chemicals.

- Make sure shared work vehicles are cleaned and disinfected each time different occupants use the vehicle and regularly if the same person uses it.
- Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for all disinfectants on site.



Establish Procedures for Sick Workers

- Require sick workers to stay home or remain isolated if they are in farm housing.
- Identify and send home or isolate workers who develop signs of COVID-19 illness.
- Cordon off areas temporarily until they are deep cleaned and sanitized after reports of an employee with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness.



Employee Education on COVID-19 Workplace Hazards

In the language best understood by employees, ensure they know:

- The signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with COVID-19 illness.
- How to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at work.
- How to effectively wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- The importance of covering coughs and sneezes, and not touching the face with unwashed hands.

* This is a summary. For more details, see F414-164-000 *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces*.

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Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

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