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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PA Gov. Wolf directs workers and customers to wear masks; order outlines other safety steps for retailers

Gov. Tom Wolf is directing businesses to provide mask for their workers and most customers will be directed to wear masks.

Wolf outlined the measures during a news conference. The order directs protections for critical workers who are employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations. Specifically, the order directs businesses to provide masks for employees while they are working.

The order also directs businesses to stagger work start and stop times for employees when practical to prevent gatherings of large groups.

Wolf's order will also apply to customers. The order will "require all customers to wear masks while on premises, and deny entry to

individuals not wearing masks, unless the business is providing medication, medical supplies, or food." In those cases, the business must provide alternative methods of pick-up or delivery of goods.

The order will be enforced starting Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 8 p.m.

The governor's order also will limit how many customers can be in stores. The order will limit occupancy to no greater than 50 percent of the number stated on a store's certificate of occupancy to reduce crowding in the business and at check-out and counter lines.

Additional requirements pertaining to stores and businesses, as specified in the Wolf administration's press release:

- *Stores and businesses must alter hours of business so that there is sufficient time to clean or to restock or both;*
- *Install shields or other barriers at registers and check-out areas to physically separate cashiers and customers or take other measures to ensure social distancing of customers from check-out personnel, or close lines to maintain a social distance between of 6 feet between lines;*
- *Encourage use of online ordering by providing delivery or outside pick-up;*
- *Designate a specific time for high-risk and elderly persons to use the business at least once every week if there is a continuing in-person customer-facing component;*
- *In businesses with multiple check-out lines, only use every other register, or fewer. After every hour, rotate customers and employees to the previously closed registers. Clean the previously open registers and the surrounding area, including credit card machines, following each rotation;*
- *Schedule handwashing breaks for employees at least every hour; and*
- *Where carts and handbaskets are available, assign an employee to wipe down carts and handbaskets before they become available to a new customer.*

