

Face Coverings Now Mandatory in Many Ontario Workplaces

October 2, 2020

On October 2, 2020, the Government of Ontario amended [O. Reg 364/20](#) to require the wearing of masks and face coverings in many Ontario workplaces.

The amendment requires that *“the person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person in the indoor area of the premises of the business or organization, or in a vehicle that is operating as part of the business or organization, wears a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin during any period when they are in the indoor area...”*

The Regulation establishes a number of exemptions, including:

- a person who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons or who is being accommodated in accordance with the Ontario *Human Rights Code* or *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*; and
- a person who performs work for the business or organization in an area that is not accessible to members of the public and is able to maintain a physical distance of at least two meters from every other person while in the indoor area.

Bottom Line: Many Ontario workplaces are now required to ensure that any person in the indoor premises of a business or organization (including in a work vehicle) must wear an appropriate mask or face covering, unless a prescribed exemption applies. One such exemption is if the person is a worker working in an area not accessible to the public if the worker is able to maintain physical distancing of at least two meters.

For assistance developing a masking policy or protocol appropriate for your workplace, contact your Sherrard Kuzz lawyer or any member of the Sherrard Kuzz team at info@sherrardkuzz.com. We'll respond promptly.

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