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From: esd.sm.nys-fingerlakes <nys-fingerlakes@esd.ny.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:05 PM
To: esd.sm.nys-fingerlakes
Subject: Business Guidance for COVID-19 Workforce Restrictions

Importance: High

Per the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, yesterday Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to reduce in-person workforce by 50% (E.O. No. 202.6, see link below). Today the Governor ordered further in-person workforce reduction by 75%.

Businesses within essential service industries are exempt from these reductions, including: shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain.

Detailed guidance for businesses is now available online at:

<https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>

Businesses unsure if they are included within in exempt categories but still believe they are providing essential services or functions can request a waiver from these reductions by completing this form:

https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Request%20for%20Designation%20Form_0.pdf

REMINDER: To help keep up with the quickly changing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, below are some important resources related to the economic impacts for businesses and workers...

- Governor Cuomo late yesterday issued an executive order that directs non-essential businesses to implement work-from-home policies effective Friday, March 20. Businesses that rely on in-office personnel must decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent:
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2026-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- ESD has set up a [web portal](#) and [FAQ](#) page for individuals and businesses with business-related COVID-19 issues and questions on this website with all COVID-19 info:
<https://esd.ny.gov/esd-covid-19-related-resources>
- **NEW:** SBA has approved a statewide disaster declaration for New York. Eligible small businesses may now apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) online at:
<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
- Many businesses and organizations have expressed a desire to support New York State as it responds to the virus outbreak. Individuals or groups looking to volunteer or contribute to the State's effort should contact the Governor's Office at covid19assistance@exec.ny.gov.
- DOL has been working hard to keep up with the new demand for Unemployment Insurance and has institute new rules that include extended ours and restrictions about when to file based on your last name:
<https://labor.ny.gov/pressreleases/2020/march-17-2020-1.shtm>

- DOL is also reminding businesses of its Shared Work Program that can provide an alternative to laying off employees during business downturns by allowing workers to work a reduced work schedule and collect partial unemployment insurance benefits for up to 26 weeks. Instead of cutting staff, you able to reduce the number of hours of all employees or just a certain group:
<https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/employerinfo/shared-work-program.shtm>
- Below is the main NYS page for all COVID-19 information:
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

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For Immediate Release: 3/19/2020

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATING BUSINESSES THAT REQUIRE IN-OFFICE PERSONNEL TO DECREASE IN-OFFICE WORKFORCE BY 75 PERCENT

Exceptions Made For Essential Services

Announces 90-Day Mortgage Relief for New Yorkers, Including Waived Mortgage Payments Based on Financial Hardship and No Negative Reporting to Credit Bureaus - Waived Fees for Overdrafts, ATMs and Credit Cards

New DFS Regulation to Free Up Staff and Speed Hospital Admission and Discharge Process

Implements New Regulations and Waives Department of Health Rules to Add Hospital Bed Capacity

Confirms 1,769 Additional Coronavirus Cases in New York State - Bringing Statewide Total to 4,152; New Cases in 30 Counties

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed an executive order mandating businesses that rely on in-office personnel to decrease their in-office workforce by 75 percent. This follows the Governor's directive yesterday that all businesses implement work-from-home policies. Exemptions will be made for essential service industries, including shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain.

The Governor also announced the Department of Financial Services has issued a new directive to New York State mortgage servicers to provide 90-day mortgage relief to mortgage borrowers impacted by the novel coronavirus. The directive includes:

- Waiving mortgage payments based on financial hardship;
- No negative reporting to credit bureaus;
- Grace period for loan modification;
- No late payment fees or online payment fees; and
- Postponing or suspending foreclosures.

Additionally, the Governor has asked DFS to instruct state chartered banks to waive ATM fees, late fees, overdraft fees and fees for credits cards to help lessen the financial hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic on New Yorkers.

"We know what we have to do to contain the spread of this virus - reduce density and person to person contact - and based on new facts we are getting every day, we're taking further steps to keep more New Yorkers at home while keeping essential services running," **Governor Cuomo said.** "At the same time, we know there is going to be an economic impact across the state and we are taking new actions to support the thousands of New Yorkers and small businesses who are suffering. It's going to be hard, it's going to be disruptive, but we will get through this together."

The Governor also announced an executive order allowing the State Department of Health to identify space within existing hospitals to increase bed capacity. This builds on the Governor's efforts to increase the state's hospital surge capacity and help ensure our healthcare system can handle an influx of patients due to COVID-19.

The Governor also announced new measures to free up staff and speed up the admission and discharge process at hospitals for 90 days. The Department of Financial Services will issue a directive to health insurers allowing scheduled surgeries and admissions without insurer preapproval and allowing inpatient hospital services without insurer approval. Under the measure, insurers will pay inpatient hospital services and emergency services without waiting to review for medical necessity. It will also allow the discharge of patients to a rehabilitation center or nursing after an inpatient hospital stay without insurer preapproval, and encourage self-funded plans to adopt these same provisions.

Finally, the Governor confirmed 1,769 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 4,152 confirmed cases in New York State. Of the 4,152 total individuals who tested positive for the virus, the geographic breakdown is as follows:

Albany County: 43 (7 new)
 Allegany County: 2
 Broome County: 2 (1 new)
 Chenango County: 2 (1 new)
 Clinton County: 2 (1 new)
 Delaware County: 1
 Dutchess County: 31 (11 new)
 Erie County: 28 (21 new)
 Essex County: 1
 Fulton County: 1 (1 new)
 Genesee County: 1 (1 new)
 Greene County: 2
 Hamilton County: 2 (1 new)
 Herkimer County: 1
 Jefferson County: 1 (1 new)
 Monroe County: 27 (13 new)

Montgomery County: 2
Nassau County: 372 (189 new)
Niagara County: 1 (1 new)
New York City: 2469 (1129 new)
Oneida County: 2 (2 new)
Onondaga County: 5 (3 new)
Ontario County: 1
Orange County: 51 (19 new)
Putnam County: 5 (3 new)
Rensselaer County: 6 (2 new)
Rockland County: 53 (23 new)
Saratoga County: 18 (4 new)
Schenectady County: 18 (4 new)
Schoharie County: 1 (1 new)
Suffolk County: 178 (62 new)
Sullivan County: 3 (2 new)
Tioga County : 1
Tompkins County: 6 (3 new)
Ulster County: 10 (1 new)
Warren County: 1
Washington County: 1
Wayne County: 1 (1 new)
Westchester County: 798 (260 new)
Wyoming County: 2 (1 new)

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Additional news available at www.governor.ny.gov
New York State | Executive Chamber | press.office@exec.ny.gov | 518.474.8418

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