

## **UOSH Emergency Rule**

### **Face Mask Use to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

**Effective Date: 11/09/2020**

#### **Utah Administrative Code R614-1-5.F.**

F. Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a virus that spreads easily from person to person and can cause serious illness or death. COVID-19 has and continues to spread and cause serious illness and death to Utah residents, threatening public health and wellness throughout the state. On November 9, 2020, the Utah Department of Health declared a state public health emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 in Utah State Public Health Order 2020-21. At the direction of Governor Gary Herbert:

1. Hereafter, every employee shall be required to wear a face mask while that employee is at work, subject to the exceptions below.

a. "Face mask" means a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth, is made of synthetic or natural fabrics, and fits snugly against the nose and sides of the face and under the chin. "Face mask" does not include a mask with an exhalation valve, vent, or other hole or opening, or a mask that is crocheted or made of lace, mesh, or similar open weblike construction or material.

b. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, an employee who is otherwise required by this rule to wear a face mask may remove the face mask in the following situations:

i. while actively eating or drinking;

ii. while as the sole occupant of a room, cubicle, or similar enclosure, so long as a physical distance of at least six feet from another individual can be maintained;

iii. when communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and communication cannot be achieved through other means and the speaker wears a face shield or uses alternative protection such as a plexiglass barrier;

iv. while obtaining or providing a service that requires the temporary removal of the face mask, such as dental services or speech therapy services;

v. while swimming or on duty as a lifeguard;

vi. while giving a religious, political, media, educational, artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical presentation or performance for an audience;

vii. when engaging in work where wearing a face mask would create a risk to the individual, as determined by government safety guidelines;

viii. when necessary to confirm the individual's identity, including when entering a bank, credit union, or other financial institution; and

ix. when federal or state law or regulations prohibit wearing a face mask.

c. The following employees are exempt from the face mask requirements above:

i. an individual who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face mask without assistance; and

ii. an individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or intellectual or developmental disability, that prevents the individual from wearing a face mask.

2. Nothing in this rule supersedes or negates the requirements for wearing a respirator or respiratory protections as set forth elsewhere in these rules.