To: PMA New York Members

On April 12, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order requiring that all employees at essential businesses must wear a mask in the workplace while in direct contact with customers or members of the public. The order became effective on Wednesday, April 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Under the order, employers are required to obtain and provide face coverings to those employees who are routinely within close contact (i.e. six feet or less) with members of the public, including but not limited to customers or clients. Face coverings can include cloth masks, surgical masks, N-95 respirators and face shields. Employees are allowed to provide their own face coverings, but cannot be required to do so by their employer. For any employee who is unable to wear a face covering and is part of a vulnerable population (those over 70 years old, immunocompromised, or those with underlying illnesses), employers must work with the employee to provide reasonable alternative accommodations. These could include providing different personal protective equipment, alternative work location, or alternative work assignment with fewer interactions with customers or the public.

In a separate order issued by Governor Cuomo on April 15, effective at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, all individuals in New York will be required to wear a face covering when in public and not able to maintain a social distance of six feet.

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time with questions.