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| **TO:** | **DCF All Staff** |
| **FROM:** | **CT DCF Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes** |
| **DATE:** | **April 23, 2020** |
| **SUBJECT:** | **Personal Protective Equipment Requirement**  |

Earlier this week, Governor Ned Lamont issued the e-mail below to all state employees which includes a new Executive Order regarding wearing masks in public and workplaces.

[Governor Lamont's Update for State Agency Employees](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/Agency/COVID-Emails/April-23-2020-Governor-Lamonts-Update-for-State-Agency-Employees.docx?la=en)

Consistent with his order and with the guidance of the CDC, effective immediately, it is now an agency requirement that all DCF employees in common areas need to wear a mask / facial covering, regardless of keeping the proper 6-foot social distance. This means masks should be worn when in the lobby, hallways, bathrooms, kitchens, when visiting coworkers in their workspace, and if someone enters your workspace.

Employees can wear their own facial covering. There is no need to have a medical grade type of facial covering unless you are working on a psychiatric hospital unit whereby guidance issued by DPH and the facility's certification body must be followed.

Here a link to the CDC guidance on how to wear a cloth mask: [CDC Guidance on How to Wear a Face Mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)

The U.S Surgeons has also issued guidance on how to make your own mask which can be accessed here: [U.S Surgeons Guidance on How to Make Your Own Mask](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPx1yqvJgf4)

Please familiarize yourselves with the Governor's Executive Order and the guidance of the CDC and U.S. Surgeons to guide your personal behavior to stay healthy and safe.