Message

From: Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/27/2021 4:33:31 PM
To: Sanders, Amy [Sanders.Amy@epa.gov]; Marlinga, Richard [marlinga.richard@epa.gov]; Smith, Debra [smith.debra@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: mask requirement

From: Newton, Cheryl
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Cantello, Nicole <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: mask requirement

Good morning Nicole,

I'd like to assist, however I'm not sure I understand your question. In Chicago, consistent with the state/local orders, mask wearing has been and will continue to be required. The OMB memo *COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles* of January 24, 2021 requires agencies to submit agency COVID-19 workplace safety plans by this Friday January 29, 2021. While we wait for further information regarding EPA's workplace safety plan, it is our expectation that all Region 5 employees, contractors, other staff members or visitors who come into the Region 5 EPA office locations, whether in GSA owned, EPA owned, or EPA/GSA leased space are required to wear a mask. As previously indicated we are confirming with all Region 5 EPA office locations that signage indicates that masks are mandatory. Once we are able to share additional information regarding EPA's workplace safety plan, we will do so. If there is something we have overlooked in your question or something specific you wish to discuss further, please confer with Richard Marlinga, the designated management official for labor relations matters. Thanks

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From: Cantello, Nicole <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Sanders, Amy <Sanders.Amy@epa.gov>; Marlinga, Richard <marlinga.richard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: mask requirement

Dear Cheryl:

Thanks for your message.

We are still trying to get clarity on Region 5 working conditions where bargaining unit employees may be currently working. On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing. In his order, President Biden references the ongoing pandemic and his administration's actions "to halt the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by relying on the best available data and science-based public health measures. Such measures include wearing masks when around others, physical distancing, and other related precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)." All agencies government-wide have been directed to implement protocols to their operational processes to ensure alignment with the prescriptions in President Biden's EO. Please see the attached link for the EO guidance.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/M-21-15.pdf

We would like to know what steps the Agency is taking to implement this guidance, not in any leased common space but in EPA-leased space across the Great Lakes, where in previous bargaining, or where EPA refused to bargain, EPA refused to impose a mask mandate.

Thanks very much.

Best,

Nicole

From: Cantello, Nicole
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: mask requirement

Thanks, Cheryl- I hope you have a restful time off.

Best,

Nicole

From: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Cantello, Nicole <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: mask requirement

Hi Nicole,

I wanted to send you a quick note, as I will be off tomorrow. We have confirmed that GSA in the Chicago office has signage indicating that mask/face covering are required. The attached picture is one GSA shared in June requiring face coverings to enter the Metcalfe Building. We are working to confirm that Mask Required signage is posted in the EPA space of our GSA buildings and other leased office locations, such as the Westlake/Cleveland Office. If you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Amy, as facilities management falls within her area of responsibility or Rick, as the designated management official for labor relations matters.

Thank you for asking. I am doing ok; nothing COVID-related, however a few other tough family things recently. I hope you and your family are doing well too. Take care.

From: Cantello, Nicole <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Cc: Targos, Loreen <Targos.Loreen@epa.gov>; Black, Christopher <black.christopher@epa.gov>; Crispell, Emily <crispell.emily@epa.gov>; Crisp, Ethel <crisp.ethel@epa.gov>; Johnson, Lashana <Johnson.Lashana@epa.gov>; Sasnow, Zachary <sasnow.zachary@epa.gov>
Subject: mask requirement

Dear Cheryl,

I hope you are well.

My understanding is that there was a mask requirement imposed by executive order in all federal buildings by the new administration yesterday. Can you explain if/how this requirement is now being enforced in EPA leased-space?

We know the protection of EPA employees entering EPA leased-space is of the highest importance to EPA management.

Thanks very much.

Best,

Nicole Cantello