

BPA's policy regarding the use of face coverings

Attention Contractors and Potential Contractors:

On July 6, BPA's policy regarding the use of face coverings will shift from "highly encouraged" to "mandatory" for all BPA employees, contractors, and visitors at all BPA facilities, worksites or anywhere work is being performed on behalf of BPA, whether indoors or outdoors. Cloth face coverings or non-surgical masks must cover the mouth and nose and are required at all times when social distancing cannot be assured.

With BPA currently in Response Level 2-A in its pandemic and transition plan, this policy is a necessary step, in conjunction with our other social distancing measures, to protect the health of the workforce that are in our facilities or the field currently and minimize the spread of COVID-19. As we've seen in recent weeks across our service territory and elsewhere, the threat of COVID-19 remains very real. The use of face coverings is a minor inconvenience that is a layer of defense against the agency having to take more drastic measures and return to pandemic Response Level 3 or 4.

The policy clearly identifies that face coverings (either a cloth face covering or non-surgical mask) are required when:

- Social distancing cannot be assured, specifically when individuals are working within 6 feet of each other.
- Entering, exiting, and moving through common areas such as walking through lobbies, hallways, multiple occupancy spaces, breakrooms, and restrooms. During these movements, the ability to maintain social distancing cannot be assured.

Face coverings are not required when:

- You are alone in a workstation, cubicle, or office.
- You are within a specified designated work area, where there is adequate room to maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet of separation).
- Requested by Security to remove the covering to allow for proper identification.
- Job duties require wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respiratory protection.
- Wearing a face covering interferes with required PPE or creates a job hazard that cannot be mitigated.
- Eating, drinking, or smoking in authorized locations where 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained.

Our safety culture at BPA emphasizes personal responsibility and the role that we all play in keeping ourselves and one another safe. Similarly, the use of face coverings is not about you or any individual member of our workforce, it's about us. Face coverings help protect our coworkers, our families, friends, and loved ones.

BPA encourages employees and our contractors to provide their own cloth face covering. In the event that an employee does not have a face covering with them, non-surgical mask dispensers will be available at major facilities. In the event that an employee refuses to wear a face covering or to wear it in an appropriate fashion, BPA may require the individual to leave the property and will not be allowed to return.

Thank you for your diligence and efforts to help BPA continue to deliver value to the region and keep the lights on.