



Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Orders Certain Businesses to Meet New Standards to Deal with COVID-19

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Today, April 6, 2020, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health issued an order requiring businesses that have remained open to observe certain cleaning and operational requirements.

Who must comply with the new order? Businesses that are authorized to ‘maintain in-person operations’ pursuant to existing orders, including businesses who have obtained exemptions AND who have at least 50,000 square feet for commercial, industrial, or ‘other enterprises’ (including warehouses, manufacturers, commercial offices, airports, grocery stores, educational institutions, government, hotels, and residential buildings with at least 50 units).

What does the order require? The order requires covered businesses to maintain pre-existing cleaning protocols, and:

- (1) Clean and disinfect high-touch areas routinely in accordance with CDC guidelines, in spaces that are accessible to customers, tenants, or other individuals;
- (2) Ensure that the facility has a sufficient number of employees to perform required protocols effectively and in a manner that ensures the safety of occupants and employees, and;
- (3) Ensure that the facility has a sufficient number of security employees to control access, maintain order, and enforce social distancing of at least 6 feet, provided the security employees are otherwise responsible for such enforcement.

When does the order take effect? Today, April 6, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.

What should I do? Make sure you are complying with the cleaning and operational requirements, draft and distribute policies to ensure compliance, and ensure that you keep records of compliance in the event of an inquiry.

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If you have any questions, please contact us at 610.825.8400 to assist you in evaluating your obligations and maintaining compliance. We know your goals are to minimize risk, keep your business open, and ensure your customers and employees are safe. Our COVID-19 Response Team is working every day on these issues for our clients.

This article represents our best effort to assemble accurate information on an accelerated basis. However, the subject is complex, and many details have been summarized or omitted in the interest of focusing on key points. In addition, the law and the guidance issued by the government is constantly changing. You should not rely on the accuracy or completeness of this information for your business and personal decisions but, rather, should seek updated, personalized legal advice as needed.

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