

CLIENT ALERT: Governor Mills Issues Executive Order #55
June 1, 2020

On Friday, May 29, Governor Mills issued Executive Order #55. The executive order is accessible [here](#). Below, we have summarized the most important information for employers.

- **Remote work:** all businesses and operations should allow employees to continue working remotely to the greatest extent practicable. If remote work is not or is no longer practicable, businesses should comply with the relevant [COVID-19 Prevention Checklist](#) and other Maine CDC guidance.
- **Commuting:** public transportation (which appears limited to transportation by vehicles) must only be utilized as necessary for essential purposes. Travelers in private vehicles must limit passengers to immediate household members, which effectively prohibits carpooling with co-workers to or from work.
- **Large gatherings:** beginning June 1, “large gatherings” may increase from 10 to 50 people.
- **Cloth face coverings:** cloth face coverings must be worn at large gatherings, even when events are held outside.
- **Signage:** before June 5, businesses accessible to the public must post signage notifying customers that they must wear cloth face coverings. Businesses may deny entry or service to those individuals who do not wear a face covering and are “not otherwise exempt from the requirement to do so.”
- **High risk individuals:** persons age 60+ or with persons with a medically compromised condition are strongly encouraged to limit activities and movement to exposure only to their immediate household members and to avoid large gatherings, especially those indoors or in confined settings.

This executive order raises a number of tricky questions for employers, such as “how do we know if a customer is exempt from wearing a face covering?” and “how do we protect older, at risk employees without running afoul of age discrimination laws?” We continue to track the latest state and federal guidance on these issues. For more information or to discuss a specific matter, please contact Peter Lowe at plowe@brannlaw.com or 207-754-5672, or Dan Stockford at dstockford@brannlaw.com or 207-607-3290.