



Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP
For Clients
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COVID-19 UPDATE: NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS, MASKS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND MULTI-STATE COUNCIL TO REOPEN ECONOMY

On April 9, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order 202.15 that brings in additional funeral directors to help with the high number of deaths related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The executive order also authorizes the Department of Taxation and Finance to accept digital signatures in lieu of handwritten signatures on documents related to the termination or collection of tax liability.

This is a link to the executive order 202.15: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20215-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>.

Governor Cuomo also issued executive order 202.16 which orders the employers of essential workers that interact with the public to provide these workers with some sort of face covering.

The executive order will direct the employers to provide "essential workers with a cloth or surgical facemask to their employees when they are interacting with the public. And they should provide those masks cost-free."

This is a link to executive order 202.16: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20216-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>.

Recognizing that states throughout the northeast have one integrated economy, Governor Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Delaware Governor John Carney and Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo earlier today announced the creation of a multi-state council to restore the economy to get people back to work.

The multi-state council will be comprised of one health expert, one economic development expert and the respective Chief of Staff of the Governor of each state. The coordinating group will be tasked to develop a fully integrated regional framework to gradually lift the state's stay at home orders while also minimizing the risk of increased risk of COVID-19.

Governor Cuomo stated that the multi-state council will use every tool available to ease social isolation without triggering a renewed COVID-19 spread which will include testing, contact tracing and treatment. The Governor stated that the multi-state council will rely on the best available scientific, statistical, social and economic information to manage and evaluate reopening the regional economy.

TRUMP TO ANNOUNCE NEW COVID-19 TASKFORCE TO REOPEN THE ECONOMY

President Donald Trump stated that on Tuesday, April 14 he will announce a new COVID-19 taskforce to determine when and how to reopen the country's economy.

The President stated that the taskforce will be comprised of people from the medical and business communities.

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