



# Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority

MEMORANDUM TO: All Employees

FROM: David Magnant

SUBJECT: Workplace Safety Standards

The Governor of Virginia today announced the adoption of statewide emergency workplace safety standards in response to the novel corona virus, or COVID-19. These first-in-the-nation safety rules will protect Virginia workers by mandating appropriate personal protective equipment, sanitation, social distancing, infectious disease preparedness and response plans, record keeping, training, and hazard communications in workplaces across the Commonwealth.

This plan is consistent with VPPSA's ongoing directives and instructions for each employee. We have provided and instructed employees to social distance, wear masks or face shields, wash hands regularly, at a minimum to clean your work station at the end of your shift, and to practice these safety measures here at work and also while you are home.

"Newly adopted standards require all employers to mandate social distancing measures and face coverings for employees in customer-facing positions and when social distancing is not possible, provide frequent access to hand washing or hand sanitizer, and regularly clean high-contact surfaces. In addition, new standards require all employees be notified within 24 hours if a coworker tests positive for the virus. Employees who are known or suspected to be positive for COVID-19 cannot return to work for 10 days or until they receive two consecutive negative tests."

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's Safety and Health Codes Board voted today to approve an emergency temporary standard on infectious disease prevention after Governor Northam directed the creation of enforceable regulations in May. These temporary emergency standards will remain in effect for six months and can be made permanent through the process defined in state law.

We do not know what the future will hold, you are our greatest assets, keeping you safe and providing the appropriate PPE is a primary focus. Please continue to practice these safety steps so we all remain healthy. We will notify you if a fellow employee tests positive; however, for privacy related issues, no names will be provided.

I will be the first to say the mask is not my favorite PPE, it is uncomfortable, itchy, and hot. But it is the current policy and will be enforced. As a reminder, masks must be worn if you are within six feet of another employee or a customer. It is uncomfortable, but a small price to pay for your safety and that of your fellow employees, friends, and family.

Stay Safe

