



**August 3, 2021**

Attention SHORE UP! employees:

Yesterday, WBOC reported that the CDC elevated three of our service area counties to substantial or high risk of transmission of COVID-19. Wicomico, Worcester and Dorchester counties are now in these categories. Additionally, data released this morning, (Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021) indicated 368 new COVID-19 cases and six new deaths.

While Governor Hogan has not issued a statewide mask mandate, SHORE UP! Inc. will now revise our mask guidance to align better with the CDC's recommendation. The CDC has recommended that fully vaccinated people begin wearing masks indoors again in places with high COVID transmission rates. **Therefore, we are reinstating the requirement that all staff are now required to wear a mask once inside any SHORE UP! facility. There are no programs or locations exempt from this requirement, and it applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.**

If you have your own office, masks may be removed in your office area. However, once another staff member enters your office space, put on your mask. Employees who sit in office spaces located in hallways or other areas in which they will encounter staff, must wear a mask. Employees who share an office space must also wear a mask at all times. All employees must practice social distancing.

Meetings may continue to be held in person if social distancing is practiced and if all meeting attendees are wearing a mask.

We understand that wearing a mask is uncomfortable. However, with the rise of new and more contagious variants, the risk to our staff has increased, and we are working to ensure your safety.

The agency will continue to adjust our practices as we receive further guidance from the CDC and the state.

Sincerely,

Freddy L. Mitchell

*Self-Help On Rural Economics and Urban Problems*

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