Kent County Residents and Visitors are Urged to Wear Face Coverings in Public

June 16, 2020 - With the recent reopenings, there has been confusion in regards to face coverings. Let me be clear. Face coverings should be worn whenever you are interacting with people who are not part of your household unit or when you are in public and must be worn by customers and employees in retail establishments, personal services, food service facilities, and on public transportation AND in other businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities that elect to do so.

Retail Establishments, Food Service Facilities and Public Transportation
Per the 'Face Coverings' Executive order (20-04-15-01) dated April 15, 2020:

- All riders and operators on any Public Transportation are required to wear Face Coverings (excluding any operator in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders);
- All customers over the age of nine are required to wear Face Coverings while inside the enclosed area of any Retail Establishment or Foodservice Establishment;
- Adult customers accompanying children age two through nine shall use reasonable efforts to cause those children to wear Face Coverings while inside the enclosed area of any Retail Establishment or Foodservice Establishment;
- All Retail Establishments shall require staff to wear, and those staff shall wear Face Coverings while working in areas open to the general public and areas in which interactions with other staff are likely;
- All Foodservice Establishments shall require staff who interact with customers (including, without limitation, delivery personnel) to wear, and those staff shall wear, Face Coverings while working.

Personal Services (i.e. beauty salons, barbershops, etc)
Per the Executive Order (20-06-10-01) dated June 10, 2020:

- All customers over the age of two are required to wear Face Coverings while inside any Personal Services Establishment, except to the extent wearing a Face Covering would make it impossible for services to be performed.
- Staff are required to wear Face Coverings while in areas open to the general public and areas in which interaction with other staff is likely.

--more--
ANY business, organization, establishment or facility
Per the Executive Order (20-06-10-01) dated June 10, 2020:

- The order maintains the ‘Face Coverings’ order (20-04-15-01). In addition, this Order goes beyond and states “Any business, organization, establishment, or facility in Maryland may require its customers over the age of two, visitors over the age of two, and/or staff to wear Face Coverings (as defined in the Face Coverings Order). A business, organization, establishment, or facility that elects to do so shall post signage at each entrance advising customers, visitors, and/or staff about such requirements.”

I urge our Kent County residents and visitors to follow the Executive Orders and take every precaution to slow the spread of COVID-19. Without a vaccine, we are left with few tools in our arsenal, but science shows us that social distancing and the use of face coverings help. On behalf of everyone at Kent County Health Department, our many partner agencies, and concerned citizens, I thank you for doing your part to protect the health of your fellow woman and man and child. We are stronger together.

Be well,

Bill Webb
Health Officer

###