



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**ELIZABETH M. TANNER, ESQ.
IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIR OF THE
RHODE ISLAND COVID-19 ENFORCEMENT
TASK FORCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
GEMMA'S MARKET
Violations of Executive Orders and
RI Department of Health Regulations**

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND COMPLIANCE ORDER

Now comes the Chair ("Chair") of the Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force ("Task Force") and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-1-20, Executive Orders 20-32, 20-40, and 20-79, and Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH") regulation 216-RICR-50-15-7 (the "Safe Regulations"), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Gemma's Market ("Respondent") is in violation of Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations, and provides notice thereof.

REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

- I. Respondent is a critical establishment located at 458 Cranston Street in Providence.
- II. Respondent is a covered entity as defined in the Safe Regulations. As such, the Respondent is required to comply with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations.
- III. On or about August 23, 2020, a Task Force inspector conducted a Healthy Environment inspection of the Respondent. The inspector performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations

and determined that Respondent scored a 6/11 for overall requirements. After the inspection, the inspector provided information and resources to the Respondent to help it achieve full compliance. This included a recommendation to the Respondent on how to access www.ReopeningRI.com and the relevant websites for the Executive Orders, rules, regulations, and guidance. The Respondent was also advised that an inspector would conduct a reinspection in the near future.

- IV. On or about October 1, 2020, a different Task Force inspector conducted a reinspection of the Respondent. The inspector met with the owner, Clariza Taveras (“Owner”), and again performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations. The inspector determined that the Respondent this time scored a 3/11 for overall requirements.
- V. Therefore, as a result of the Respondent’s continued failure to comply with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations, and in the absence of any other information to rebut the allegations above, RIDOH has drawn the conclusion that the above allegations are true, and the Respondent is not in compliance with applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

The following alleged violations stem from the October 1, 2020 reinspection.

- I. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(3) of the Safe Regulations, which requires all individuals in an establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing or an exception applies and requires establishments to deny entry to any employee, who is not otherwise exempt from the requirement or who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required. The inspector observed three (3) employees in the store, one (1) of whom was not wearing a cloth face covering. The employee did not claim an exception and was not able to continuously maintain physical distancing. The inspector also observed that two (2) of the eighteen (18) customers in the store were not wearing cloth face coverings.

- II. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(8) of the Safe Regulations, which requires all covered entities to maintain an employee work log that identifies the full name, phone number, and the date and time of all shifts worked by each employee. This work log must be maintained for at least thirty (30) days. Upon request, Respondent admitted that it does not maintain an employee work log.
- III. Respondent is in violation of Sections 7.4.1(A)(6) & (7) of the Safe Regulations, which require each covered entity to ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishments once per day and to maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning. Upon request, Respondent admitted that it does not maintain the required cleaning log.
- IV. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(6) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to clean commonly touched surfaces, such as shared workstations, elevator buttons, door handles and railings in accordance with CDC guidance for specific industries. In the course of an approximately one (1) hour inside the store, the inspector did not observe any high touch surfaces being cleaned, most notably the front entrance and cashier counter areas between uses. The inspector concluded, therefore, that the Respondent did not clean high touch surfaces in accordance with CDC guidelines for its industry.
- V. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(2) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason. The inspector observed many customers enter the store, none of which was screened by the Respondent. In addition, there were no posters visible at or near the entrance concerning entry screening.
- VI. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(4) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishments educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use

of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH. The inspector observed that three required employer posters relative to cleaning guidance, screening guidance, team and records guidance, and rules to keep you safe at work were not posted at the entry to the establishment and concluded, therefore, that the Respondent failed to ensure the placement of required posters. Notably, also, two (2) of the eighteen (18) customers observed in the establishment were not wearing cloth face coverings.

- VII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(1)(a) of the Safe Regulations, which requires establishments to ensure compliance with a plan that includes procedures relative to, among other things, physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible. As stated, above, Respondent admitted to not having the required plan and the inspector observed that there were no measures in place to ensure that physical distancing was maintained.

ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED, that on or before the tenth (10th) day from service of this Notice of Violation and Compliance Order, Respondent shall remedy the above cited violations and come into full compliance with applicable Executive Orders and Regulations, by fulfilling the conditions as set forth below:

- I. Respondent shall instruct all individuals/customers in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing or an exemption applies.
- II. Respondent shall require all employees in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing can be continuously maintained, or an exception applies. In accordance with Section 7.4.1(3)(a) of the Safe Regulations, Respondent shall deny access to its establishment to any employee who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required by the Safe Regulations unless an exception applies.

- III. Respondent shall maintain an employee work log that identifies the full name, phone number, and the date and time of all shifts worked by each employee. This work log must be maintained for at least thirty (30) days.
- IV. Respondent shall ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishment once per day and maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning.
- V. Respondent shall clean all high touch surfaces in accordance with CDC guidelines, in accordance with its specific industry, and maintain records documenting such cleaning.
- VI. Respondent shall implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason.
- VII. Respondent shall ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishment educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH.
- VIII. Respondent shall ensure compliance with its plan for safe operation, required pursuant to Section 7.4.1(A)(1) of the Safe Regulations, including compliance with, among other things, procedures consistent with the Safe Regulations relative to physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible.

Failure to comply with this ORDER may result in the imposition of civil fines, the issuance of an immediate compliance order, and/or any other action authorized by regulation, the Act, or other applicable law.

Entered this 2nd day of October 2020.



Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Chair
Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force
RI Department of Health
Cannon Building, Rm. 401
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING MAY BE FILED IN WRITING WITHIN

TEN DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE

EXHIBIT A

