



**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:
Watch Hill Outfitters
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 (“Safe Regulations”), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Watch Hill Outfitters (“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 retail establishment located at 157 Main Street in Westerly.
- 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 October 1, 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 an 8/11 for overall requirements. Of significance was the fact that none of the three (3) employees observed was wearing a cloth face covering when the inspector entered.

- IV. 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.
- V. On or about October 9, 2020, a different Task Force inspector conducted a reinspection of the Respondent. The inspector met with an employee and again performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations. The inspector determined that the Respondent scored a 7/12 for overall requirements. Of significance once again though was the fact that some of the employees were not wearing cloth face coverings.
- VI. 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 9, 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. When the inspector entered the store, she observed five (5) employees present. Of the

five (5), two (2) were not wearing cloth face coverings. Although they both did don a cloth face covering upon seeing the inspector, neither employee claimed an exception, nor was either employee able to continuously maintain physical distancing.

- II. 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 although some of the required information was posted at the entry to the establishment, information pertaining to COVID-19 symptoms was missing. The inspector concluded, therefore, that the Respondent failed to ensure the placement of all required posters.
- 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, the Respondent could not produce the required records.
- IV. 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 could not produce an employee work log.

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 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.

- II. 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.
- III. Respondent shall ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishment once per day and maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning.
- IV. 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.

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 14th 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**