

Home Care Developments

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NY Gov. Hochul Announces New Masking Requirements for Businesses, Starting Monday

Today, Gov. Hochul announced that masks will be required in all indoor public places across New York State unless businesses or venues have a vaccine requirement. The Governor stated that the mandate is being implemented to prevent a holiday surge of Covid-19 cases.

The new measure starts on Monday, December 13, and will be re-evaluated on January 15, 2022.

Businesses that ask for proof of vaccination can accept Excelsior Pass, Excelsior Pass Plus, SMART Health Cards issued outside of New York state, or a CDC vaccination card.

Businesses that implement a mask requirement must require all customers 2 years and older to wear a mask while indoors. Providers should ensure that they are enforcing the masking requirements for vendors and visitors to their offices and/or verifying vaccination status.

NY Attorney General Letitia James Suspends Campaign for Governor

Last night, Attorney General Letitia James announced that she was suspending her run for the Governor of New York. Through her Twitter account, James announced, "I have come to the conclusion that I must continue my work as attorney general." "There are a number of important investigations and cases that are underway and I intend to finish the job." Her announcement was immediately praised by the Democratic Party Chairman, suggesting that Ms. James withdrew from the race at the urging of her own party.

As home care providers know, the Attorney General's Office under Ms. James has for years focused on the home care industry, from Medicaid compliance to wage parity, paid sick leave, alleged worker exploitation, and general wage and hour compliance. It remains to be seen if Ms. James' decision to withdraw from the race will have the effect of re-invigorating her investigations and focus on home care. Ms. James's political aspirations might have been suspended for now, but she will no doubt continue to try and make a name for herself in furtherance of future political aspirations, and she could seek to make that mark through aggressive enforcement and investigations of healthcare providers, including home care.



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STAY IN TOUCH
emina@poricaninlaw.com
315.269.1125
518.676.0192



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Poricanin | 90 State Street, Suite 700, Albany, NY 12207

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