September 17, 2020

Good Afternoon NRCS,

We have heard reports of instances where NRCS and partner employees are not consistently wearing masks or face coverings in the workplace. As we continue to experience increased instances of COVID-19 across many areas of the country and more positive tests within our workforce, employee and customer safety are a very high priority for all the FPAC agencies.  As such, it is important that agency leaders at all levels share a reminder of USDA’s mask policy with all our employees and partner staff.

Masks are required in our USDA offices, including during all face to face interactions and in hallways, common areas and restrooms. If employees are alone in a private office or at their desk and separated from other employees by at least 6 feet, they do not need to wear a mask. Additionally, USDA requires customers to wear a mask to enter a USDA facility for an appointment throughout all phases of reopening, until further notice.

Please continue to take your safety, and the safety of your colleagues, seriously and let your supervisor know if you have questions. If you think you might have been exposed to COVID-19, are experiencing symptoms, are awaiting test results or have tested positive, please notify your supervisor. You can also report any of these situations using the FPAC COVID Self-Reporting Tool.

Please share this message to ensure we are being responsive to and compliant with the policy.

Respectfully,

Jerry

***Jerry Raynor***

State Conservationist

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service