



Frequently Asked Questions for Employees Regarding June 2021 COVID-19 Changes

1) When is an employee considered “fully vaccinated?”

An employee is considered “fully vaccinated” when they have received all recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization and at least 14 days have elapsed since the administration of the final dose.

2) If an employee is fully vaccinated, what has changed for them when they are in a state facility?

If an employee is fully vaccinated, they do not need to wear a mask while in a state facility. Although, if an employee is fully vaccinated and prefers to continue wearing a mask, they may do so.

If an employee is not fully vaccinated, they must continue to wear a mask. Also, it is strongly encouraged that employees who interact with the public wear a mask.

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in some settings, such as, but not limited to hospitals, acute care facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and correctional facilities, must continue wearing a mask. If you have any questions regarding facility-specific rules involving mask wearing, please contact your agency or department leadership.

The CDC has [helpful information about what you can do once you are fully vaccinated.](#)

3) Do customers and visitors to state facilities need to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated?

It is recommended that customers and visitors to state facilities wear a mask regardless of their vaccination status.

In addition, as the State reopens and our vaccination rates rise, we will assess the safety and socially distancing tools that have been put into place in our public waiting and service areas, such as the use of plexiglass, in the near future. But in the meantime, in consideration of our employees and the general public, these tools will remain in place.

Visitors to our outdoor parks and recreation areas are not being asked to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated or if they can continuously maintain 3 feet of distance from one another.

4) As an employee who works outdoors, do I need to wear a mask outdoors if I am not fully vaccinated?

Employees who work outdoors and can continuously maintain 3 feet of distance from other individuals do not need to wear a mask regardless of their vaccination status.

5) Do customers and visitors to State facilities still need to complete a COVID-19 health screening, either with a verbal screening or through the RI Screening Portal?

Yes, all customers and visitors to State facilities still need to complete a COVID-19 health screening and receive a color sticker in order to be admitted into our state facilities.

6) Are vendors and contractors that work regularly in our state facilities allowed to go without a mask if they are fully vaccinated?

Vendors and contractors who work in our State facilities are able to go without a mask if they are fully vaccinated.

7) Do employees need to provide proof of vaccination in order to go without a mask while in a state facility?

No, employees are not required to provide proof of vaccination.

8) What constitutes acceptable proof of vaccination?

Employees or members of the public may choose to carry a physical or digital copy of their vaccination record. The official COVID-19 vaccination verification documents available in Rhode Island currently include:

- Your COVID-19 Vaccination Record card
- A printed or digital photo of the front and back of your COVID-19 Vaccination Record card
- A printed copy or screenshot of your COVID-19 vaccination record page from Rhode Island's Vaccine Record Lookup Portal at portal.ri.gov/VaccineRecord

9) I have a concern that another employee is not fully vaccinated and is not wearing their mask. What should I do?

You should go to your manager or supervisor to voice your concern and they will address any appropriate concerns.

10) If an employee is fully vaccinated, do they need to continue to use the RI Screening Portal on a daily basis?

If an employee is fully vaccinated, beginning on Monday, June 7, they may voluntarily show their vaccination card to a screening captain at their facility to certify that they are fully vaccinated. They will then be given a gold-color sticker which indicates that they have certified that they are fully vaccinated and do not need to complete a daily health screening going forward. The gold-color sticker should be placed on the back side of their badge. They must continue to monitor their symptoms every day and if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, they cannot enter the building and must contact their supervisor and Human Resources Disability Management Unit at 401-574-8401.

11) What if an employee is fully vaccinated but they do not want to voluntarily show their vaccination card to a screening captain?

If an employee is fully vaccinated but they choose to not voluntarily disclose their vaccination status, they must continue to complete a daily health screening.

For all employees who are still required to continue to complete a daily health

screening, either verbally or through the RI Screening Portal, please note that the questions will change effective Monday, June 7 in recognition of the different requirements in accordance with the CDC's and RIDOH's guidance for both those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not fully vaccinated. Specifically, questions have been updated for close contact, domestic, and international travel restrictions. Please be sure to carefully read all of the questions before answering to ensure you are accurately answering each question.

12) What should an employee do who is fully vaccinated and exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19? Can they still come to work?

If an employee is fully vaccinated, they must continue to monitor how they feel every day. If they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, they cannot enter the building and must contact their supervisor and Human Resources Disability Management Unit at 401-574-8401.

13) Now that Rhode Island is reopening, when will all breakrooms, kitchen areas, and conference rooms be fully open again for use by employees?

We are beginning to reopen breakrooms, kitchen areas, and conference room. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and your agency will be in touch as we assess these spaces and reopen them for use.

14) What should I do if I am interested in extending my existing telework agreement?

If you are interested in extending your existing telework agreement, you should approach your manager or supervisor to have a conversation regarding the possibility of an extension as well as an appropriate extension date. If your telework agreement is extended, your agency will submit the information to DOA to confirm approval of your telework extension request. Keep in mind that any telework agreement extensions are being approved for a short-term period, pending further review of the future of remote work at the State.