



Director's Office

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James E. Thorsen, CFA, Director

Dear colleagues,

The Division of Human Resources, in close coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), is updating the State's COVID-19 Policy based on the latest health data across the state and guidance from our federal partners. The updated policy will be finalized within the next few days and posted on www.hr.ri.gov. In the meantime, I want to share some new measures that will take effect tomorrow, Friday, March 4th.

Masks in State Facilities

As of 5:01 p.m. on Friday, March 4th, everyone inside a state facility is no longer required to wear a mask. While this requirement is being lifted, employees, contractors and visitors may choose to wear a mask based on their own individual needs.

Additionally, RIDOH and the CDC strongly recommend that individuals who are at any level of risk consult with their medical provider in consideration of wearing a mask. RIDOH also strongly recommends that immunocompromised employees or employees with underlying health conditions consult their health care provider in consideration of wearing a mask while in a state facility. Finally, it is recommended that employees who are not up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations continue to wear a mask.

Employees returning to the workplace after having COVID-19 or being a close contact of someone who does must follow the masking requirements detailed in the *Isolation, Quarantine and Travel* section of the policy.

Masking requirements for health care workers, providers and facilities that fall under RIDOH's [216-RICR-20-15-8](#) and the [COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Licensed Health Care Workers, Providers and Facilities](#) remain in effect until further notice. Note that this does not apply to the State Health Laboratories because they are not patient facing. These employees are no longer required to wear a mask as of 5:01 p.m. on Friday, March 4th.

The Department of Corrections will provide separate guidance for its facilities.

Daily Health Screenings

All employees regardless of vaccination status do not need to continue completing a health screening (on the self-screening portal, an in-person verbal screening or an in-person self-screening) when they arrive at a state facility or worksite.

All employees should continue monitoring for symptoms every day. If you are [experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms](#), you cannot enter the building and must contact your supervisor and Human Resources representative.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James E. Thorsen, CFA
Director of Administration