



Director's Office

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James E. Thorsen, Acting Director

May 17, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Throughout the pandemic, your health and safety have been the most important considerations. That was the case when we began implementing restrictions more than a year ago and now, when our vaccination rate allows us to begin relaxing them. With more than 600,000 Rhode Islanders having received at least one dose of vaccine, more activities can safely resume.

Last week, Governor McKee and the Rhode Island Department of Health announced that the State's masking requirement will be updated in accordance with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Effective tomorrow, fully vaccinated people can be at state offices without wearing a mask. You are fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. If you are not fully vaccinated, you must continue to wear a mask. If you are fully vaccinated and prefer to continue wearing a mask, you are welcome to do so. Please note that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in healthcare settings, such as hospitals, must continue wearing a mask. Additionally, I strongly encourage employees who interact with the public to continue wearing a mask. The CDC has [helpful information about what you can do once you are fully vaccinated](#).

The State will honor all teleworking agreements through the end date of each agreement as agreed to by the employee and supervisor. While I encourage you to consider returning to the workplace, if you would like to extend an agreement beyond the current end date, please speak with your supervisor. Please note that the State is actively reviewing the future of telework and will have more information available around the future of the workplace in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, we will make every effort to accommodate short-term extension requests.

Finally, we recognize that things are changing rapidly. Your input is valued and will help us move forward. The Department of Administration will be in touch in the coming weeks to gather your feedback regarding long-term planning for your agency and operations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
James E. Thorsen
Acting Director of Administration