



## Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | 401-222-2280  
James E. Thorsen, Acting Director

September 7, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Over the last several weeks, the State has seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases as a result of the more contagious Delta variant. Despite this increase, the State has not experienced a spike in deaths – clear evidence of the efficacy of the vaccines and a testament to the State's relatively high vaccination rate.

It is critical that as many eligible individuals as possible get vaccinated, especially those in close contact with some of the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders, including older individuals and those with underlying health conditions.

It is with this concern in mind that the State is requiring all health care workers and health care providers to receive the final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Friday, October 1, 2021.

Please review the [regulation](#), the State's [COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Licensed Health Care Workers, Providers and Facilities](#), and the [FAQ document](#) for detailed information about the applicability of the Policy and next steps for employees subject to it.

We recognize you may have questions about or want to fully educate yourself on the COVID-19 vaccine. There will be resources available to answer those questions, and we also encourage you to talk to your primary care provider or a physician that you trust. Be assured that it is the unambiguous consensus among national, state and local health care leaders that the vaccines are the best protection for you, your loved ones and those for whom you care.

I'd also like to remind everyone of the recently implemented requirement to wear your masks at state facilities. Your compliance will keep you, your colleagues and our visitors safe.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out to your supervisor. Additionally, DOA Human Resources can be reached at [doa.hrcontact@hr.ri.gov](mailto:doa.hrcontact@hr.ri.gov).

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Thorsen".

James E. Thorsen  
Director of Administration