



Director's Office

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James E. Thorsen, Acting Director

August 12, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Rhode Island, like states around the country, is seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases as a result of the Delta variant. The number one thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from the Delta variant is to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths. Additionally, because the Delta variant is more contagious, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear masks indoors in areas experiencing high rates of COVID-19 transmission.

Rhode Island is currently experiencing a high rate of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the CDC and as such, **effective at the start of business on Friday, August 13, everyone entering a state facility, both visitors and employees, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a face covering** unless you have a health condition that prevents you from wearing a mask. If that is the case, you must contact the Human Resources Disability Management Unit. You are encouraged to bring a mask to work every day. If you forget to bring one, please consult with their supervisor, as there will be a limited number of masks at each agency.

Please note that the [State's COVID-19 Policy](#) has been updated to include this requirement along with other changes made to align with the latest health guidelines pertaining to quarantining, testing, and other measures.

The masking requirement will remain in effect until the State experiences a marked and sustained decline in the transmission of COVID-19. We will notify you in advance of any decision to lift this requirement.

I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James E. Thorsen
Director of Administration