



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), has updated the State's COVID-19 Policy based on the latest health data across the state and guidance from our federal partners. The updated policy is effective as of April 19, 2022 and can be viewed at [COVID-19 Policy UPDATED.pdf \(rigov-policies.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.rigov-policies.s3.amazonaws.com/COVID-19_Policy_UPDATED.pdf).

Masks in State Facilities

Last month, the mandate for wearing masks inside any state facility was lifted for most employees and visitors.

With this change, note that any employee who chooses to continue wearing a mask in the workplace should feel comfortable doing so. RIDOH also strongly recommends that employees who are immunocompromised or have underlying health conditions consult with their medical provider for individualized masking recommendations. Lastly, for the safety of patients and clients, some state facilities are still requiring masking. Please refer to your agency's guidance regarding proper masking protocols.

Travel

As a precaution, we strongly suggest that employees who travel domestically or internationally take a COVID-19 test three to five days upon their return. Also, the CDC recommends that any individuals who are not up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations consider delaying travel until they are fully vaccinated. For CDC travel guidelines regarding international travel, please visit COVID-19 Country Specific Information ([state.gov](https://www.state.gov)) and [COVID-19 by County | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/travel-guidance) for community levels by county for domestic travel.

The restriction on work-related international travel has also been lifted, but employees should heed the CDC guidance on delaying travel until they are fully vaccinated and should test three to five days upon their return, as stated in the procedures section of the policy.

COVID-19 symptoms

Employees with any symptoms of COVID-19 should take a COVID-19 test and report to the workplace only if that test is negative. This is particularly important during allergy season, so seasonal allergy sufferers can feel confident that they are safely entering the workplace. But as a reminder, even if an employee receives a negative COVID-19 test and they cannot attribute their symptoms to seasonal allergies, they should stay out of the workplace, so they do not expose their co-workers, clients and customers to other viruses or contagions.

Quarantine

The procedures in the quarantine section of the policy have not changed. Employees who are identified as close contacts to a known COVID-19 case must quarantine according to RIDOH guidelines if they are not up to date on their vaccinations and recommended boosters.

Isolation

The procedures in the isolation section of the policy have not changed. Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must continue to follow the isolation and post-isolation procedures outlined in the full policy.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James E. Thorsen, CFA
Director of Administration