



# Director's Office

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James E. Thorsen, CFA, Director

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Dear colleagues,

The [State's COVID-19 Policy](#) has been updated to account for new guidance from the federal government and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

For your convenience, in this communication, we have provided a high-level overview of the changes, but it is the responsibility of employees to read the Policy, so they fully understand the procedures and expectations as it relates to COVID-19 and state employment.

- The most significant change in the Policy can be found in *Section I. Isolation, Quarantine and Travel Procedures*. This section, which is now in a chart format, aligns with [RIDOH's COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance by Population](#), with some alterations in the procedures as it applies to the state employees.
- The period of time that an employee may need to isolate or quarantine has been shortened in accordance with recent RIDOH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. The duration depends on your vaccination status, if you are symptomatic or asymptomatic, or if you are immunocompromised.
- The definition of "vaccinated" depends on the situation. For example, when it comes to travel, an employee is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completion of a two-dose mRNA series vaccine or the one-dose J&J vaccine. In terms of quarantine procedures, however, an employee is considered vaccinated if they have received a booster if eligible. A full explanation can be found in the *Agency and Employee Responsibility Section No. 4*.
- Masks are still required in all state buildings. Cloth masks are acceptable, but in following RIDOH and CDC guidance, high-quality or surgical masks are recommended. High-quality or surgical masks are also required for a limited period when returning to the workplace following isolation or quarantine. Please see *Section I. Isolation, Quarantine and Travel Procedures* for more information.
- Consistent with past iterations of the Policy, all health care workers must refer to their agency's guidance regarding agency-specific protocols.

Thank you for all that you continue to do in the effort to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

James E. Thorsen, CFA  
Director of Administration