

**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**COVID-19: Staff Quarantine & Isolation Protocols**  
**Last Updated: 10/8/2021**

Please be advised that the information contained in this document changes rapidly. As a result, this document is updated often; therefore, staff should ensure no changes have been made since last referencing or printing it. Also, please keep in mind that RIDOC determines quarantine, isolation and testing decisions based on RIDOH and CDC guidelines and recommendations; ***however***, RIDOC is unique as it is considered a congregate living setting and has a varied nature of work that employees conduct on a daily basis, thus there are multiple factors that contribute to this decision making. RIDOC routinely consults with the RIDOH to determine the best course of action based upon these factors and the individual circumstances surrounding an exposure. Situations and circumstances are not always the same; therefore, many decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

**If you have recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days or are fully vaccinated (i.e., 2 weeks after your final dose of vaccine), you do not need to quarantine after an exposure or travel.**

**DOC QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS**

**First Responders** [Correctional Officers (CO's), doctors and nursing staff **only**] ***shall continue to report to work during their quarantine period regardless of vaccination status.***

**FULLY Vaccinated Individuals:**

- Quarantine is **NOT REQUIRED for anyone who is FULLY VACCINATED** even if they were exposed to someone with Covid-19 or recently traveled.
  - **Fully vaccinated** is defined as someone who is 2 weeks out from receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine dose, in a 2-dose series, or 2 weeks out from receiving one dose of a single-dose vaccine.
- **If a staff member has/develops symptoms:** they **must** get tested and isolate until they receive a negative test result, regardless of vaccination status.

**Individuals Who are NOT Fully Vaccinated:**

- **Quarantine is required for anyone who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED if they:**
  - had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
  - traveled out-of-state (for more than 24 hours) (see Travel Protocols below)
  - been advised to quarantine by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) or a medical professional
    - **First responders** must wear K/N95 masks while at work during their quarantine period.
    - **First responders** must quarantine when outside of work (no public transportation, no shopping, etc.), unless they are **fully** vaccinated.

- Individuals not fully vaccinated **must** test no sooner than day 5 of quarantine to shorten their quarantine to 7 days.
  - If the individual tests negative, they must return to work the day after they receive the negative result.
  - If the individual tests positive they must follow the DOC Isolation Protocols outlined below.
  - Test results taken outside of DOC (either positive or negative) must be sent to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).
- A negative test must be provided before returning to work.
  - The test should be done in the community (<https://portal.ri.gov/>) or a drive-up test can be scheduled at the RIDOC by emailing a request to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).
  - The COVID-19 test must be a PCR test. Rapid tests, BinaxNOW tests, and/or antibody tests will **not** be accepted for return to work.
  - *If staff are tested in the community*, they must send their supervisor a copy of the negative test result.
  - Once the supervisor receives the negative test result, he/she shall forward the result to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov), which will be securely stored.
- Any **not fully vaccinated** staff person who has a **household member that has tested positive** must **quarantine for 17 days if the staff person cannot isolate** from the positive household member (i.e., separate bedroom, and bathroom).
  - The patient should get tested on Day 15 (5 days after a 10-day isolation).
  - If isolation is possible, the staff person may quarantine for 7 days with a negative Day 5 test.
- If a staff member has **not been fully vaccinated and has not recovered from a previous COVID infection in the last 90 days**, and has been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, has traveled out-of-state (for more than 24 hours) or has been advised by the RIDOH or a medical professional to quarantine **but are not currently exhibiting symptoms** themselves, staff must:
  - Notify their supervisor of their need to quarantine.
    - Supervisors shall notify, via email, the designated person who is tracking staff quarantine and isolation information.

**If you are on quarantine and notice symptoms, please get tested.**

If you are on quarantine and at “high risk” for severe infection (i.e. age >60 or have other health issues), please consider contacting your PCP about eligibility for Monoclonal Antibody for post-exposure prophylaxis.

## DOC POST-TRAVEL QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

### Individuals Who are NOT Fully Vaccinated:

Domestic Travel: **Individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated** must take a **COVID-19 test after returning to RI** and produce a negative test result **before returning to work**. All travelers arriving at and departing from TF Green Airport can get a free rapid COVID-19 test in the baggage claim area.

International Travel: **Individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated** must **quarantine for 10 days** after returning to RI. A 10-day quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if the individual tests negative no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.

Individuals not fully vaccinated **must** test no sooner than day 5 of quarantine to shorten their 10-day quarantine to 7 days.

- If the individual tests negative, they must return to work the day after they receive the negative result.
- If the individual tests positive they must follow the DOC Isolation Protocols outlined below.
- Test results taken outside of DOC (either positive or negative) must be sent to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).

Testing should be done in the community (<https://portal.ri.gov/>) or a drive-up test can be scheduled at DOC by emailing a request to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).

**NOTE:** A Nasopharyngeal PCR, Anterior Nasal Swab test, or rapid test is required (antibody tests will **not** be accepted for return to work). Proof of negative test will be required if done in the community. Results must be sent to your supervisor, **prior to returning to work**, who will forward them to the DOC COVID Questions email [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).

### FULLY Vaccinated Individuals:

Domestic and International Travel: **Fully vaccinated individuals** (including those who tested positive within 90 days) **do not need to quarantine** upon return from travel. Although no longer required, all travelers are encouraged to get tested upon return from travel. (TF Green Airport offers a free rapid COVID-19 test in the baggage claim area.)

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**Individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days upon return from travel. If someone develops symptoms at any time or receives a positive test result, they should follow the DOC Isolation Protocols outlined below.**

### Please use extra caution when returning to work:

- wear a mask,
- continue social distancing,
- self-monitor for symptoms, and
- get tested if you have any concerns.
  - During time at work after staff has traveled, it is recommended to minimize work exposures and contact with individuals as much as possible.

## DOC ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

**Applicable to all DOC staff regardless of vaccination status.**

**No one shall enter any RIDOC facility who is COVID-19 positive or has COVID-19 like symptoms.**

- Staff must notify their supervisor.
  - Supervisors shall notify the designated DOC person who is tracking staff quarantine and isolation information.
- Isolate for 10 days from the date they first tested positive **if** they do not have symptoms.
- For those who have, or who develop symptoms after the positive test result, **isolation begins from the start of symptoms**; therefore, isolation dates can change.

### **Isolation Test-Out**

**Staff are required to test-out of isolation** and return to work prior to the end of their 10-day isolation after meeting the following criteria:

- ❖ Take 2 PCR tests, 24 hours apart **and** receive a negative result for each test.
  - The first of the 2 tests should be taken no sooner than 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours, after receiving the initial positive COVID test result.
- ❖ Staff **must** return to work the day after they receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> negative test result.
  - If a positive result is received from either or both PCR tests, staff must complete their 10-day isolation (starting from the day of the initial positive test) and cannot return to work earlier than the 10 days.
  - If staff tests in the community, they must send the results to their supervisor who shall email the negative results to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov) **prior to** staff returning to work.
- Staff should notify their primary care physician (PCP). Staff with symptoms who have other risk factors should ask their PCP about Monoclonal antibody therapy.
- Staff must provide their supervisor with the shift(s) and location(s) they have worked in the 48 hours prior to their test being done or their symptoms starting and the names of anyone they have been in close contact with.
  - Contact tracing information must be sent to the supervisor as soon as possible after receiving a positive test result and/or symptoms develop.
  - Supervisors must send the contact tracing information to [doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov](mailto:doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov).

In order to return to work staff **must be fever-free** for at least 24 hours **and** have not used fever reducing medications (i.e., Aspirin, Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen), **and** have improving symptoms.

- Individuals with underlying health conditions, or those that are immunocompromised, should discuss return to work with their PCP to ensure they are no longer contagious or at risk for serious health complications related to the COVID-19 virus. If someone is unsure if this category applies to them, they should contact their PCP.

Those who tested positive for COVID-19 will not need to test again until 90 days after their isolation period has ended (unless they are exposed and/or symptomatic).