

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
COVID-19: Staff Quarantine & Isolation Protocols
Last Updated: 6/8/2022

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 not only a correctional facility but is also considered a congregate living setting. It 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.

DEFINITION UPDATE

The CDC and RIDOH have adjusted the terms used for vaccination status. Please review carefully so you know which category you fall under.

Fully Vaccinated – individuals who have received both doses of either Moderna or Pfizer, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine but have **not** received a booster

Up-to-Date on Vaccinations - individuals who have received all recommended boosters (individuals are considered “up-to-date on vaccinations” the day they receive the booster)

Unvaccinated – individuals who have not received any COVID vaccinations

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Regular surveillance testing may occur at specific intervals as determined by the Medical Program Director.

- ❖ Those who test positive for COVID-19 should not undergo asymptomatic testing until 90 days after their isolation period has ended. If they are exposed to a positive case or become symptomatic, they should only test with a rapid antigen test.
 - ❖ All symptomatic individuals will take a rapid test. If the rapid test is negative, a PCR test will be conducted, unless a PCR test has been previously positive in the past 90 days.
 - ❖ All close contacts will take a rapid test and follow RIDOH quarantine protocols (see Quarantine Protocols section below for links).
 - ❖ Testing schedules **may** vary depending on the number of positives in the facility.
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QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Staff **not up-to-date on vaccinations** who have [returned from travel](#) or who have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19 must wear a mask for 5 days **and** test on day 5 (rapid tests are accepted). Tests may be scheduled at the Dix building by completing the [RIDOC COVID Testing Registration](#).

- If the test is negative, staff are strongly encouraged, but not required, to continue wearing a mask for another 5 days.
- If the test is positive, staff must adhere to the DOC Isolation Protocols below.

First Responders (Correctional Officers, doctors and nursing staff **only**) **not up-to-date on vaccinations** that have been exposed or have travelled must test on day 5 and wear a K/N95 mask for 10 days, regardless of test result and vaccination status.

All staff should follow [community guidelines for quarantine](#) when outside of work.

Staff who are concerned about exposure or exhibiting symptoms, please schedule a same-day rapid test at the Dix building by completing the [RIDOC COVID Testing Registration](#).

Staff must continue to follow DOC-specific Isolation Protocols as outlined below.

DOC ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

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

Isolation protocols do not change based on vaccination status; however, isolation may be prolonged if symptoms persist or if the individual is immunocompromised.

- Staff must notify their supervisor upon receipt of a positive COVID test.
 - Supervisors shall track staff quarantine and isolation information.
- Staff must 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.
 - Staff on isolation must follow the Isolation Test-Out protocols outlined below.

These recommendations are consistent with the CDC Guidance in Correctional Facilities, which is different than the CDC Guidance for the General Community.

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:

- ❖ Staff must stay home for at least 5 days.
- ❖ On day 5, if symptoms are improving, individuals must take a rapid test:

- If **negative**, the individual shall return to work on day 6 and must wear a mask for 5 days (if individual has symptoms and they are improving).
 - If **positive**, the individual shall remain out of work but shall continue to test each day to return to work on that day (i.e., rapid test on day 6, if negative return to work on day 6, rapid test on day 7, if negative return to work on day 7, etc.). **Day 6 is the earliest staff can return to work.**
 - Staff who are required to isolate for the full 10 days shall return to work on day 11, and do not need to test to return to work.
- Tests should be done in the community (<https://portal.ri.gov/>) or a drive-up test can be scheduled at the RIDOC by completing the [RIDOC COVID Testing Registration](#).
 - *If staff are tested in the community*, they must send a copy of the negative test result to their supervisor and to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov, **prior to returning to work**, for secure storage.
 - Staff will be contacted by Healthcare Services staff and must provide the names of anyone they have been in close contact with (defined by 15 minutes or greater within 6 feet of another person).

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.

All staff will have access to adequate PPE.