

This message has been approved by Tanya Rowell, CEO of the Public Service Commission

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Today, Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, issued a Public Health Order - [Vaccination and Testing Policy Order for Front-Line Public Service Providers](#) – which, beginning on September 27, 2021, will require employees working in congregate settings, including but not limited to schools, provincial group homes, and correctional facilities in Prince Edward Island to be fully immunized or participate in regular testing for the SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. The new measures are being put in place to reduce the circulation of COVID-19, including the Delta variant, in our communities and reduce the risk of Islanders becoming ill from the virus, especially those most vulnerable.

Effective Monday, September 27, 2021, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated public service employees in the following fields will be required to participate in the Public Health Order:

- **Those who work in schools, correctional facilities, provincial group homes, and other facilities as defined by the Order; and who**
- **Interact with and provide front-line service to clients, staff and members of the public; and who**
- **Have prolonged (in excess of 15 minutes) exposure in close proximity (within 2 m.) with individuals**

Staff in any position above will be tested up to 3 times per week (depending on their work schedule) until such a time as they are fully immunized and provide proof to the Employer. All employees subject to this Order will be contacted by their respective Manager or Director by Friday, September 24, 2021 with further instructions.

It is anticipated that this will primarily impact staff in the Departments of Social Development and Housing, Justice and Public Safety and Education and Lifelong Learning. These new testing and vaccination requirements will have different impacts on each Department, and respective directors, managers, supervisors and HR Managers for these facilities will work together to communicate with staff about the process for identifying vaccination status and advise on testing requirements for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated staff.

These new requirements will provide an additional layer of protection for our employees, clients and students in addition to masks, physical distancing, staying home when feeling unwell, and good hand hygiene.

In addition to the above, the following important public health measures remain in place:

- Non-medical masks are mandatory for all Islanders in indoor places, see [Civil Service Mask Protocol](#).
- Monitor closely for symptoms, stay home when ill and [get tested](#) and take extra precautions if you experience [even mild symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Report to your Manager immediately if you have symptoms or concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure or if Public Health has advised that you need to be [tested](#) and/or [self-isolate](#). Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 at work must immediately perform hand hygiene, report to their Manager, avoid contact with staff, leave as soon as it is safe to do so, and arrange to be tested. Managers should then consult with their HR Manager on next steps.

- **Travel:** PEI residents should not travel off-Island unless it is necessary, **work related out-of-province travel should be restricted to essential travel only.**
- **Visitor Access:** Visitors coming into buildings are to be screened with the [Screening Script](#).
- **Meetings:** 6 ft. physical distancing must be maintained, and gatherings are restricted to 20 people. You are encouraged to meet virtually where feasible.
- Ensure 6 ft. physical distancing in your workplace and in common areas.
- Wash your hands and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, cover your cough or sneeze with tissues or your sleeve, and ensure enhanced cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Stay informed by checking www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19 regularly for updates from the Chief Public Health Office.

To make an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine at one of the public clinics, go to www.princeedwardisland.ca/GetTheVaccine or call the toll-free 1-844-975-3303. You can also make an appointment at one of the many [partner pharmacies](#) across the province. For information on PEI's COVID-19 vaccine rollout, including vaccine facts, frequently asked questions and immunization data, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

We are here for you. You have access to confidential and professional counseling and resources. EAP can be reached at (902) 368-5738, toll-free at 1-800-239-3826, or at eap@gov.pe.ca. For more information, please go to <https://psc.gpei.ca/employee-assistance-program>.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Manager or HR Manager.

Thank you for doing your part, together we can make a significant and positive impact for so many.

Tanya