

PEI Civil Service Mask Protocol Updated July 9, 2021

Effective noon, Friday, July 9, 2021, non-medical masks are no longer required in indoor public spaces but recommended for people:

- **Who are not yet fully vaccinated;**
- **When interacting with those for which vaccine status is unknown, such as members of the general public and other external clients and visitors.**
- **In indoor public places where physical distancing cannot be maintained.**

While no longer mandatory, masks do provide an additional layer of protection and those who wish to continue to wear masks are encouraged to do so. It's extremely important to continue to practice caution and adhere to public health measures such as maintain physical distancing, stay home when ill, and wash your hands regularly.

In indoor places where physical distancing cannot be maintained and/or services are provided to the public, masks are recommended. Employees, clients and other visitors to Government buildings where physical distancing can't be maintained and/or are accessible to the public, are encouraged to follow CPHO guidelines for wearing non-medical masks as outlined at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/wearing-non-medical-masks-community> and are responsible for providing their own masks.

The "Masks Encouraged" sign can be found at

https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/final_new_mask_8.5x11_july_2021_3.pdf.

Exceptions

Where masks are recommended, consideration will continue to be given to individuals who cannot wear a mask due to certain health conditions and exceptions. Some individuals are unable to wear masks for various reasons. In some cases, these reasons may not always be visible to others.

Clients and Other Visitors

We are not expecting clients and other visitors to produce proof of vaccination or exemption. We continue to ask for kindness, respect and understanding. Those arriving without a non-medical mask at location where masks are recommended and who do not fall under an above-noted exception may be offered a disposable non-medical mask, if available. Regardless, they should still be served in a safe manner. We will continue to rely on Islanders to make good decisions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

It is important to note that some departments may have more specific safety requirements regarding masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) in place, given the nature of their services. This is not meant to supersede that direction.

Are masks still required if physical distancing can be maintained or barriers are present?

Non-medical masks are recommended, even when physical distancing can be maintained or barriers (such as plexiglass) are present in offices when interacting with those for which vaccine status is unknown, such as members of the general public and other external clients and visitors.

I work somewhere the public does not have access to (such as a private cubicle), do I need to wear a mask?

If the area in which you are working is not interacting with the public or in a high traffic area, including private office buildings and cubicles that are not accessible to the public, wearing a mask is not required. However, even in private workplaces, masks are strongly recommended when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

The following measures are most effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace and must continue:

- Monitor for symptoms, stay home when ill and [get tested](#) if you experience any [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 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.
- Ensure physical distancing (2m/6ft) in your workplace and in common areas such as elevators, hallways, boardrooms, stairs, lunchrooms, etc. This may include staggering lunch breaks, booking larger boardrooms, limiting the number of people in the workplace where necessary by having people work remotely where possible, limiting public access where appropriate, and meeting virtually or via teleconference.
- 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.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your Manager or your departmental Human Resource Manager directly to discuss.

Thank you, keep up the great work, we are getting closer to the finish line!