



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR'S OFFICE

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EXECUTIVE ORDER
Requiring Employee Vaccinations to Keep Residents and Employees Safe
2021-0015

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Gina Raimondo declared a State of Emergency in Rhode Island and activated emergency planning; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2021, Governor Daniel J. McKee issued Executive Order 21-86, a "Declaration of Disaster Emergency for new COVID-19 Variants"; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 ("Delta Variant") is now sweeping the country and has become the dominant strain in Rhode Island and nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Variant may have a viral load 1,000 times greater than the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 that hit Rhode Island in 2020 and is more than twice as contagious as recent variants, and 3-4 times more contagious than the original strain, leading to a significant increase in transmission among those who are not vaccinated and breakthrough infection in some people who are fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, both unvaccinated and vaccinated people can spread the Delta Variant; and

WHEREAS, since August 11, 2021, Rhode Island has been experiencing a high level of community transmission of the Delta Variant, defined as more than 100 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in the past 7 days; and

WHEREAS, from August 8 to August 14, 2021, the community transmission of the Delta Variant in Central Falls was 150 cases per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, though it is summer - a traditionally slower time for hospital admission - Emergency Department admissions in all hospitals in Rhode Island are exceeding capacity and hospitals are on rolling diversion of patients due to increased patient volumes; and

WHEREAS, there has been a consistent increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths since July 4, 2021 and RIDOH modeling data project, by the first few weeks of September, that the number of people in Rhode Island hospitals may exceed hospital capacity; and

WHEREAS, RIDOH's modeling team of statisticians and public health professionals reports that, based on its statistical analysis, without continued and improved mitigation measures, the Delta Variant may cause an increase in the rate of deaths by the end of September 2021; and

WHEREAS, this increase in prevalence of the Delta Variant poses a significant and imminent risk to Central Falls residents and employees of increased symptomatic disease, hospitalization, and death; and

WHEREAS, a serious threat to public health exists because of the Delta Variant and the City needs to take additional measures to limit the spread of the Delta Variant and other new variants of concern.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Maria Rivera, Mayor of the City of Central Falls, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 30-15-13, as well as Sections 4-100 and 102 of the Central Falls Home Rule Charter, declare and order the following:

1. All persons currently employed by the City of Central Falls, including temporary, part-time, volunteer, and contract staff, are required to either have completed a full vaccination series against the COVID-19 virus before October 1, 2021, or agree to submit to weekly polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for the presence of the COVID-19 virus. "Fully vaccinated" shall be defined as having completed the full course of one of the currently recognized COVID-19 vaccines, by having received either one or two doses, whichever is required to complete the series of their brand of vaccine.
2. All persons currently employed by the City of Central Falls, including temporary, part-time, volunteer, and contract staff, are required to comply with any relevant state or federal vaccination requirements.
3. In the event an employee opts not to receive one of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines, they shall submit to weekly polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for the presence of the COVID-19 virus, which must have a negative result.
4. All new employees incoming to City employment after October 1, 2021 will be subject to the provisions of this policy upon hire. New employees not previously fully vaccinated will be required to undergo PCR testing weekly until they complete their vaccine series.
5. The Department of Human Resources shall promulgate in-depth implementation processes for this Order on or before September 10, 2021.
6. Effective immediately, as previously ordered, all city employees shall wear a face covering while engaging with the public or in common areas within city buildings.
7. Failure to comply with this Order may subject an employee to disciplinary action.
8. Effective immediately, as previously ordered, all members of the public, regardless of vaccination status, shall wear a face covering inside all city buildings including, but not limited to, City Hall, the Police and Fire Departments and the Department of Public Works
9. Everyone within the geographical boundaries of Central Falls is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering when in an indoor public space or when outdoors in a public gathering. Exceptions for this recommendation to wear a face covering include young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious,

incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance or anyone to whom wearing a face covering would damage his or her health.

SO ORDERED:

Maria Rivera
Mayor

Dated: August 25, 2021