**New Guidance Regarding Masks and Vaccinations**

June 2, 2021

Based on New York State’s adoption of the new Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, we are excited to announce that fully vaccinated employees who receive prior approval will not need to wear a mask at work.

* According to the CDC, it is safe for “**fully vaccinated”** people to stop wearing masks in most indoor and outdoor settings.

“Fully vaccinated” means it has been two weeks since a person received the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or the single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine and has received a valid vaccination record from the vaccine provider.

* **Unvaccinated employees must still wear face coverings**, per the CDC and the State’s adoption of its guidance
* Masks will continue to be **required to be worn on Metro Buses and the rail, and at our airports** as mandated by the Federal government
* Mask wearing is always an option for vaccinated employees if they decide that is appropriate for them. If you are not vaccinated, you must continue to wear a mask
* The Authority encourages you to get vaccinated to help stop the spread of COVID-19
* There may be local conditions, regulatory changes or laws that affect our guidance. The Authority will provide updates if these policies change and reserves our ability to make changes.

**Demonstrate that you’re fully vaccinated**

* Starting June 3, 2021, we will begin allowing fully vaccinated employees to work without a mask once we confirm that the employee has been vaccinated.
* To be eligible to work without a mask, employees must demonstrate proof of vaccination by showing your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card. Employees should not provide any medical or family history information or genetic information. Employees will not be asked any questions about medical or family history information or genetic information. Vaccinated employees who provide proof of vaccination will receive an “identifier” sticker to be placed on their employee badge. As a reminder falsification of records is prohibited. Providing false or fraudulent vaccine records, utilizing a sticker without appropriate authorization, or committing other violations will be viewed as cause for disciplinary action or “just cause” for disciplinary action within the meaning of the offending employee’s collective bargaining agreement. Any employee who commits a violation as described above or otherwise engages in falsifying or misrepresenting vaccination status will be subjected to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
* Only those who have received the sticker will be allowed to remove their mask in the designated areas noted above.
* Human Resource Department will be setting up times at each location. More details will be provided over the next few days on how and where you can receive your vaccine sticker.

**Thank you for all you do to serve our communities each and every day!**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What does this mean, do I still need to wear a mask?**

The CDC has advised that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask. If you have presented proof of vaccination and received the designated sticker on your badge, you do not need to wear a mask unless you are in the following locations:

1. Airport terminal
2. Public transit including buses, railcars, and paratransit vehicles
3. Public Areas in the Transportation Centers including both MTC and NFTC
4. Light rail stations

**What is the definition of fully vaccinated?**

Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks have passed after a person’s second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or 2 weeks have passed after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

**I am Fully Vaccinated. May I Continue to Wear a Mask?**

Yes, you may continue to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated. Wearing a mask should not be viewed as an indication to others that you may not be fully vaccinated. Wearing a mask remains highly encouraged by the NYS Department of Health where vaccination status of others is unknown.

**Do I Need to Share My Vaccination Status with Others?**

There is no requirement to share your vaccination status. However, in order to remove your mask, you will be required to share your vaccination status with Human Resources in order to receive the badge sticker allowing for you to remove your mask in the approved locations.

**Are visitors and vendors able to unmask?**

Signage will indicate that visitors and vendors who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask. NFTA employees can still require visitors and vendors to remain masked and maintain social distancing until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated.

**Where can I find more information about vaccinations and schedule a vaccination?**

The CDC offers information about vaccinations and what you can do once you are fully vaccinated [Vaccines for COVID-19 | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html).

To schedule an appointment to receive your vaccine, please contact your local pharmacy, physician or visit the websites below:

• New York State vaccination sites: https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener

• For some drug stores: <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

• For WNY counties: <https://www.vaccinehound.org/>

• Erie County vaccination sites: https://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=press/schedule-covid-19-vaccinationappointments-erie-county-department-health-sites