

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

AMENDMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 13G:

VACCINATION MANDATE FOR INDIVIDUALS WORKING FOR STATE FACILITIES, STATE HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC PREK–12 SCHOOLS, AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

On August 19, 2021, Governor Ned Lamont signed Executive Order No. 13D, revised on September 10, 2021 as Executive Order No. 13G, mandating that individuals working for the state or in state hospitals, and individuals working in public or non-public pre-K through 12 schools or in child care facilities must be vaccinated for COVID-19 by September 27, 2021, unless eligible for an exemption or a test option. In accord with the Executive Order, the Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a Guidance that sets forth the form and manner in which individuals subject to the Executive Order must prove and authenticate their vaccination status or request an exemption from the mandate and includes the requirements for proving compliance with the related testing mandate if the individual is working under an approved exemption. The Guidance also sets forth the form and manner in which the state, state hospitals, school boards, and childcare facilities must maintain the individual's documentation of vaccination or exemptions and must verify compliance with the testing requirements for unvaccinated individuals.

In light of developments from the CDC and clinical testing shortages that stem from an increase in the COVID positivity rate, DPH is modifying the Guidance by the following revisions to requirements for testing and on steps to be taken by an individual who receives a COVID-19 test result.¹

I. CHANGES TO TESTING REQUIREMENTS

State employees, state hospital employees, and covered workers in pre-K through 12 schools and child care facilities who are not "fully vaccinated" (as defined by the Executive Order) must test for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) at least weekly (i.e., at least one test every 7 days) unless they can provide documented proof that they have tested positive for, or been diagnosed with, COVID-19 infection in the prior 90 days. Testing is required for such employees and workers who have granted a medical or religious/spiritual exemption or who have opted out from vaccination and test weekly. State hospital workers cannot opt for weekly testing in lieu of vaccination.

¹ The definitions provided in the Guidance are utilized and apply to this Amendment.



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State employees, state hospital employees, and covered workers who are subject to weekly testing do not have to test when teleworking for 100% of the weekly testing period. Such individuals must submit a test result before returning to their worksite.

The Guidance (section II. C. Testing Requirements) specified that home-based testing that is not directly observed and verified by the signature by a state licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse is not considered adequate proof of a SARS-CoV-2 test for the purposes of complying with these the testing requirements. Under this Amendment, **home or self-testing with an FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 test kit is an acceptable testing method to comply with the weekly testing requirements for workers who are exempt from or opted out from vaccination.**

II. TESTING DOCUMENTS

With one exception, the testing document requirements in the Guidance (section III. B. Testing Documents) remain unchanged and in effect. The Guidance provides for temporary testing waiver for State employees, state hospital employees and covered workers on the basis of being infected with COVID-19 for a period of 90 days. Such individuals must submit a copy of either the Temporary Waiver request (Appendix D), completed and signed by their healthcare provider, or a copy of their positive test result plus a completed Declaration Attesting to the Authenticity of COVID-19 Test Result. Under this Amendment, **a positive test result from home or self-testing with an FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 test kit is acceptable to establish that the individual has been infected with COVID-19.** The healthcare provider must still complete a Temporary Waiver request (Appendix D) and may note that the individual has provided the provider proof of a positive test result from such a COVID-19 test kit on the form as part of their certification.

III. RESPONSE TO A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT

The Guidance provides that any individual who receives a **positive** SARS-CoV-2 test result should contact their medical provider to seek advice for disease management, should contact their agency's human resources designee to report their positive test result (to assist with contact tracing) and comply with its COVID-19 policies, and should not report to work until the individual's condition met certain requirements. Based on recent CDC guidance, these individual conditions are being revised as follows:

Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- should contact their medical provider to seek advice for disease management
- should contact their agency's human resources designee to report their positive test result
- **should, regardless of your vaccination status-**
 - follow CDC advice that individuals who have had COVID-19 should [isolate for 5 days](#) and can return to work and other activities on day 6 or later provided they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours and other symptoms are improving. CDC has advised that [some symptoms may persist](#) for weeks or months (such as residual congestion or loss of taste and smell), but the continuing presence of those symptoms need not delay the end of isolation.

- To minimize the risk of infecting others, maximize your use of a mask at work and maintaining distance around others for the 5 days following your return to work.
- Stay at home if you are still sick after 5 days and follow the existing human resource or employer guidance for absence from work for a period of 14 days.
- Continue to observe all masking and social distancing protocols that are in effect at our workplaces.

All other requirements of the Guidance remain in effect.



January 4, 2022

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Connecticut Department of Public Health

Date