

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic / Governor's Mask Mandate / Quarantine Criteria

Captain Isaac Paine, Ponaganset Middle School and Ponaganset High School Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to share additional information on three topics. This communication contains information about: 1) the upcoming Vaccination Clinic, 2) an Executive Order issued by the Governor today relating to masks, and 3) quarantine requirements should a student be identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 individual.

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC AUGUST 28TH AT PONAGANSET HIGH SCHOOL

The Gloucester Emergency Management Agency will be operating a first dose COVID-19 vaccination clinic (Pfizer vaccine) for **ANYONE 12 years and older as well as a third dose / booster shot for those who are immunocompromised.**

The clinic will be held on Saturday morning, August 28, 2021, 9:00 AM to Noon at **Ponaganset High School**, 137 Anan Wade Rd, Gloucester, RI.

The clinic is open to all individuals age 12 and above, including, but not limited to, students, staff, families, and community members. You do not need to be a resident of Foster or Gloucester to attend this clinic.

Vaccinations By Appointment (Preferable) Walk-ins Accepted

To register for the clinic, go to the Health Department registration link below. **The link will not work with Microsoft Explorer, please use another browser.**

After selecting the link choose an available appointment time and continue. You don't have to enter your health insurance information, just click the dropdown for "private insurance or Medicare" skip the rest of that page and click Save and Continue. Answer all the health questions and continue to the next page. Upon completing your registration, you should receive a confirmation email.

Click on this link to register for the Vaccination clinic:

<https://www.vaccinateri.org/appointment/en/reg/0205919064>

If this clinic becomes filled you can still register for a vaccination at a State run clinic on www.vaccinateri.org.

Minors under 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. It is not mandatory that students or staff receive the vaccination. We are sharing this opportunity as a convenience for families who want to obtain a vaccine.

Parents please note that RI General Law (RIGL) permits a person age 16 or older to consent to certain medical procedures. Under state law (RIGL § 23-4.6-1): "Any person of the age of sixteen (16) or over or married may consent to routine emergency medical or surgical care. A minor parent may consent to treatment of his or her child."

GOVERNOR ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIRING MASKS IN SCHOOLS

At today's COVID-19 Briefing Governor McKee stated: "When it comes to schools our top priority is our children to be safe and in the classroom....So as Governor I will not put student safety at risk...That's why today I am issuing an Executive Order requiring masks to be worn in all public schools this Fall. I want to be crystal clear. All students will be wearing masks when we start school in September." - Honorable Governor Dan McKee.

Following the COVID-19 Briefing the Governor signed Executive Order Executive Order 21-87 with states: "LEAs that have not adopted a universal indoor masking requirement shall be required to abide by a universal indoor masking protocol developed by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). The RIDOH protocol shall require universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools."

As per the Executive Order of the Governor masks will be required indoors for students and adults at Captain Isaac Paine School, Ponaganset Middle School, and Ponaganset High School.

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS / CRITERIA FOR SCHOOLS

Under current state guidance you are considered fully vaccinated "if you have received a final dose of COVID-19 vaccine, that is either FDA approved or received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), at least 14 days before your last exposure or out-of-state travel."

There are several conditions the state outlined that exempt a student or adult from the requirement to quarantine if identified as a close contact to a positive case in an educational setting:

- A close contact who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and has no symptoms is not required to quarantine;
- A close contact who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and has no symptoms is not required to quarantine;
- A close contact who maintains at least 3 feet of physical distance at all times during a potential exposure is not required to quarantine provided that both the exposed student (close contact) and the infected student were properly wearing masks at all times during the exposure.
 - If one of the students is not wearing a mask, then the close contact will be required to quarantine.

These exemptions can mitigate the need for students to quarantine if they are a close contact of a positive case. This will help minimize disruptions to the learning environment for students, athletes, and staff.

If a student is required to quarantine our district will be following the 7 day quarantine guidance. With this option, close contact individuals can return to school on Day 8 with a negative test from Day 5 or later, and should also watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure."

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As was the case last year guidance and requirements from the state will likely continue to evolve as circumstances within our state change. This will require us to review and adjust our mitigation strategies to continue providing academic, personal-social, extra-curricular, and athletic opportunities for our students. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and support as we adjust to changing circumstances in schools and our state.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnes
Proud Superintendent Foster and Foster-Glocester Regional Schools