

BREAKING NEWS / Police searching for shooting suspect near Route 28 in Middleboro

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&lt; 1/5 &gt;

# CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS

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## CORONAVIRUS

## Rhode Island lifts all restrictions, with a few exceptions



by: Melanie DaSilva

Posted: May 21, 2021 / 06:18 AM EDT / Updated: May 21, 2021 / 06:29 PM EDT

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) — Rhode Island officially has the green light to reopen, and it's a day that will go down in history.

The State House lit up in green overnight as the state lifts many of its COVID restrictions for the first time since March 26, 2020.



## PINPOINT WEATHER 12

Current 71°	Tonight 69°	Tomorrow 75°
Rain	Scattered Thunderstorms Precip: 52%	Scattered Thunderstorms Precip: 57%



## DAN YORKE STATE OF MIND



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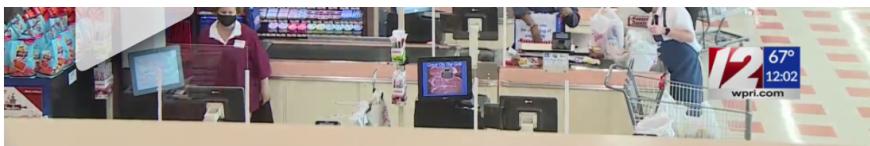
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On 'S...



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Stores, restaurants, gyms, and churches can operate at 100% with no social distancing requirements.

Weddings can now have dance floors again, and funerals can include everyone who wants to grieve without restrictions.

Gov. Dan McKee said nightclubs will remain at 50% capacity unless all patrons can show proof of vaccination, then it can move to 100%.

### Reopening: Stay the course on safety

What you can safely do if you're vaccinated – if you're partially vaccinated or not vaccinated, you're more likely to get and spread COVID-19 doing these activities.

Fully vaccinated means you have all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and more than 14 days have passed since your final dose. Establishments may (but are not required to) supplement these rules with their own rules regarding mask wearing, proof of vaccination, testing and other mitigations. Signage guiding expectations around these topics is required at your establishment. (Visit [www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov) for examples.)

CATEGORY	CURRENT (May 18)	BEGINNING May 21 <sup>st</sup>
MASK WEARING	Required for unvaccinated individuals with certain exceptions*	Required for unvaccinated individuals with certain exceptions*
PHYSICAL DISTANCING	None required; business discretion	None required; business discretion
INDOOR DINING	80% Indoors; 100% Outdoors	No restrictions
BAR AREAS	For indoors: seated-only; plexiglass required	No restrictions; Indoor standing service allowed; no plexiglass required
CATERED EVENTS	80% up to 200 indoors and 500 outdoors; recommended/required testing**; outdoor only: standing bar service/cocktail hours	No restrictions: 100% capacity with no cap; indoor and outdoor standing bar service/cocktail hours; open dance floors
HOUSES OF WORSHIP	80% capacity	No restrictions
RETAIL	80% capacity	No restrictions
GYMS, SPORTS & REC	80% capacity	No restrictions
PERSONAL SERVICES	80% capacity	No restrictions
VENUES OF ASSEMBLY	80% up to 500 indoors, no cap outdoors, DBR/Applicable Municipal Approval for 2,500+ events	No restrictions
FUNERAL HOMES	80% capacity	No restrictions
OFFICES	80% capacity	No restrictions
SOCIAL GATHERINGS	Up to 25 people indoors; 75 people outdoors	No restrictions

\*Please CDD guidance for vaccinated individuals to view exceptions to this requirement. \*\*Required for student catered events/strongly recommended for other catered events.

R.I. Department of Health Director Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott explained the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for those who are fully vaccinated but are hesitant to go back to a pre-pandemic lifestyle.

"Even if you are in a crowded setting, the understanding is you are protected," Alexander-Scott said. "Even if you are around people who are COVID positive, once you are fully vaccinated, you are protected."

McKee moved the reopening day by one week and was originally supposed to be on May 28, just in time for Memorial Day Weekend. He says this is all made possible due to vaccination efforts.

"It's safe for people who are fully vaccinated, and we want to keep on emphasizing that," he added during his weekly COVID briefing. "The vaccinations are what allow us to reopen."

## Fully vaccinated Rhode Islanders no longer need to wear a mask →

No masks are required by the state if you are fully vaccinated, but businesses are allowed to make their own decisions in regards to that.

State data shows about 60% of Rhode Islanders are fully vaccinated. As more people get the shot, the state is winding down operations at mass vaccination sites in South Kingstown and Woonsocket over the next two weeks.

The R.I. Department of Health reported 527,445 people are fully vaccinated on Friday, with 627,551 receiving at least one shot.

The data also shows 85 new positive coronavirus cases, with more than 8,000 tests conducted the prior day. The percent positivity came out to 1%.

One death was also reported, bringing the total death toll to 2,704.

Regional municipal sites, pop up clinics, and other existing mass vaccination sites will continue to be available.

## Here's how to get vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 in RI, Mass. →

## COVID-19 Tracking:



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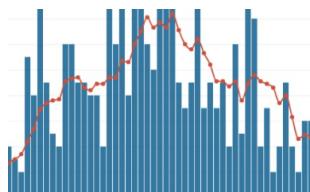
McKee participates in both Bristol, Cumberland 4th of July parades

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## Fully vaccinated Americans 'do not need' a COVID-19 booster shot at this time, agencies say

by Sydney Kalich, via Nexstar Media Wire / Jul 9, 2021

CHICAGO (NewsNation Now) — Americans fully vaccinated against coronavirus "do not need a booster shot" at this time, the nation's top health agencies said Thursday, hours after Pfizer announced it would ask for authorization of a third dose of its vaccine.

"People who are fully vaccinated are protected from severe disease and death, including from the variants currently circulating in the country such as Delta. People who are not vaccinated remain at risk," the joint statement read in part. "Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time. FDA, CDC, and NIH are engaged in a science-based, rigorous process to consider whether or when a booster might be necessary."

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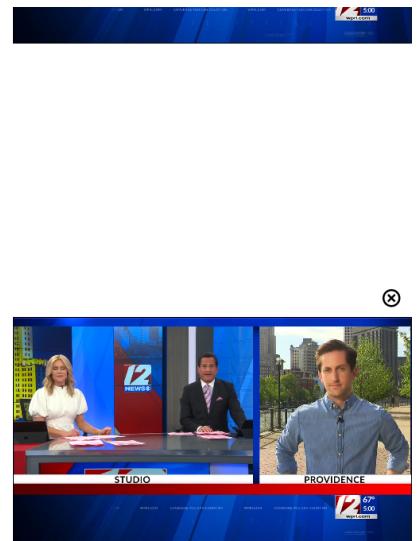
## Teachers and students don't need to wear masks in schools: CDC

by Nexstar Media Wire / Jul 9, 2021

NEW YORK — Vaccinated teachers and students don't need to wear masks inside school buildings, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday in relaxing its COVID-19 guidelines.

The changes come amid a national vaccination campaign in which children as young as 12 are eligible to get shots, as well as a general decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

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## Biden to sign executive order to promote competition in US economy

by Sydney Kalich / Jul 9, 2021

WASHINGTON (NewsNation Now) — President Joe Biden will sign an executive order Friday that includes 72 initiatives across over a dozen agencies to promote competition throughout the economy, according to a fact sheet released by the White House.

The order goes after corporate monopolies across a broad swath of industries such as technology, banking and airlines and pushes government agencies to consider how their decisions will impact competition in a given industry.

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