

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CONCISE STATEMENT OF PROPOSED NON-TEHCNICAL AMENDMENTS
(AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING REGULATIONS)**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-1.7(b)(8), the following is a concise statement of proposed non-technical amendments to *Immunization, Testing and Health Screening for Health Care Workers (216-RICR-20-15-7)*.

Amendment Coordinates	Rationale/Summary of Change
§ 7.3 (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes reference to an incorporation by reference of 216-RICR-30-05-1
§ 7.3(D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates reference to OSHA Blood Borne Pathogen Standard to newest year
§ 7.4(A)(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates definition of “advance practice registered nurse”
§ 7.4(A)(2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes definition of “certified registered nurse practitioner”
§ 7.4(A)(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates definition of “health care facility”
§ 7.4(A)(7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises definition of “health care worker”
§ 7.4(A)(9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates definition of “period in which flu is widespread”
§ 7.4(A)(10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises definition of “physician”
§ 7.4(A)(11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises definition of “physician assistant”
§ 7.4(A)(12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises definition of “practitioner”
§ 7.4(A)(14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes definition of “these regulations”
§ 7.4(A)(14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates definition of “up to date”
§ 7.5(A)(1) through (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes definition of “health care facility”
§ 7.5(I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires health care facilities to provide masks to employees at no charge
§ 7.6.1(B))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires health care workers to be up to date with COVID-19 vaccine or wear a medical grade mask during substantial transmission

Amendment Coordinates	Rationale/Summary of Change
§ 7.7(B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires health care facilities to document the COVID-19 status of its health care workers
§ 7.7(C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires documentation of immunization must be given to the Department upon request
§ 7.8(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement of medical exemption for influenza
§ 7.8(B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes definition of “period in which flu is widespread”
§ 7.8(A) (formerly § 7.8(D))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows health care worker to refuse the flu vaccine for any reason provided that notice of refusal is given and they wear a mask when flu is widespread
§ 7.8(C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement of annual notice of health care workers who refuse the flu vaccine due to a medical exemption
§ 7.8(E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement of yearly statement attestation
§ 7.8(F) & (G)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes penalty amounts
§ 7.8(I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes health care facility fines for influenza
§ 7.8(J)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement of health care facilities providing masks
§ 7.8(K)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes no regulatory language which explains purpose of the regulations
§ 7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates new section for violations
§ 7.9(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any health care facility or health care provider who violates the regulation are subject to administrative action by the Department and any other action provided under applicable law
§ 7.9(A)(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides health care facilities seven days from promulgation to implement necessary compliance measures for testing
§ 7.9(A)(2) & (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides newly covered health care facilities and their health care workers three months to comply with the requirements of the regulation