

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Title of Rule: Immunization, Testing, and Health Screening for Health Care Workers (216-RICR-20-15-7)

Rule Identifier: 216-RICR-20-15-7

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: February 24, 2022

Hearing Date: March 8, 2022

End of Public Comment: March 27, 2022

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17 and § 23-17.7.1

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

This regulation is being promulgated to add definitions for the terms advance practice registered nurse, health care facility, period in which flu is widespread, and up to date; revise the definitions of health care worker, physician, physician assistant, and practitioner; remove superfluous language; require health care workers to be up to date with a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine or wear a medical grade N95 mask when the prevalence rate is substantial; require health care facilities to document COVID-19 immunization status of its health care workers; simplify the requirements for influenza; and create a violation section.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 27, 2022 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Paula Pullano
Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Room 410
Providence, RI 02908-5097
Paula.Pullano@health.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: March 8, 2022

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom
Providence, RI, 02908

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-222-3395 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In development of this rule, consideration was given to:

- 1)Alternative approaches;
- 2)Overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and
- 3)Significant economic impact on small business.

No alternative approach, duplication or overlap was identified based on available information. RIDOH has determined that the benefits of the rule justify its costs.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.