



**Rhode Island Department of Health**  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**DECLARATION OF CONCLUSION OF WIDESPREAD INFLUENZA PERIOD  
STATEWIDE AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 23-17-21 and -36, and R23-17-HCW Rule 5.3 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining To Immunization, Testing, and Health Screening For Health Care Workers, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health hereby declares on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013, the conclusion of the period of widespread influenza throughout the State of Rhode Island that began on December 5, 2012. The following actions are hereby ordered until further notification:

1. Until the next declaration of widespread influenza, health care workers at Rhode Island health care facilities who have not been vaccinated against influenza shall not be mandated as a professional licensing requirement to wear surgical face masks during direct patient contact unless the facility at which they work or volunteer continues to experience widespread influenza (known also as "influenza outbreak") as determined by the Department of Health.
2. Unless the Department of Health declares otherwise to a health care facility that continues to experience widespread influenza (known also as "influenza outbreak"), each Rhode Island health care facility shall notify all health care workers employed or volunteering at the facility (or with whom they have an employment contract) that the period of widespread influenza throughout the State has concluded and that masking is no longer mandated as a professional licensing requirement.
3. Nothing in this Declaration precludes a Rhode Island health care facility from implementing infectious disease practices for health care workers, including masking, if in accordance with its established infectious disease control protocols.

Signed this 11th day of February, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fine", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Fine, M.D.  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Health