



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators and Senate Professional Staff
FROM: Wilton Simpson
SUBJECT: Updated COVID-19 Protocols
DATE: May 3, 2021

Effective today, Governor DeSantis has suspended all local emergency orders related to COVID-19, and the Florida Capitol Complex will be fully open to the public beginning this Friday, May 7, 2021.

In keeping with these developments, and taking into account the widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as the end of the 2021 Regular Session, COVID-19 Protocols for the Florida Senate have likewise been updated to reflect the current status of the pandemic in our state.

There have been many lessons learned throughout the course of the pandemic, which inform continued protocols designed to keep our workplace as safe and healthy as possible.

- **Cleaning Common Areas and Personal Offices:** The Senate will maintain frequent cleanings of common areas and restrooms, and will continue to provide wipes, sanitizer, and other products for use in between routine cleanings of personal office spaces.
- **Hand Sanitizing Stations:** Hand sanitizing stations in common areas will remain.
- **Monitor Your Health:** We now have a better understanding of how our own personal health impacts others in the workplace. Employees are encouraged to monitor their health daily, and to stay at home when sick.
- **Testing:** Weekly testing will no longer be required. If you are at work and notice symptoms of COVID-19, the Senate continues to have self-administered rapid antigen tests available. You may request a test by contacting Senate Administration at (850) 487-5636. As always, do not come to work if you are symptomatic.
- **COVID-19 Exposure:** If you develop symptoms at home, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, you should remain at home and contact Senate Administration.

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- **Masks:** While no longer mandatory, masks remain optional, and all employees are encouraged to be sensitive to social distancing preferences of their coworkers. The Senate maintains a supply of personal protective equipment, including N95 masks, which are available for your use upon request.
- **Social Distancing:** Employees who prefer to maintain social distancing protocols within their own workspace may contact Senate Multimedia at (850) 487-5922 or SenateMultimedia@FLSenate.gov to request signage to display outside their offices or workspaces.
- **Vaccines:** As previously communicated, if you would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and have not yet had the opportunity to do so, Senate Administration is available to assist with identifying local opportunities to receive a vaccine.

While the pandemic is not over, vaccines remain widely available to all adults and have been for more than a month. Therefore, at this time, I would anticipate that the protocols outlined above will be in place for the upcoming special session, and will also include in-person public testimony as we had during the recent budget conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Mears or Traci Jones. I look forward to seeing you all later this month.