

# EMPLOYMENT LAW ALERT

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**RMF**

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## NEW YORK UPDATES RESTRICTIONS FOR OFFICE SPACES

On June 15, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced that a majority of COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted, effective immediately, as 70% of adult New Yorkers have received at least one vaccine dose. New York's health guidance and New York Forward industry specific guidelines—including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, health screening, and contact information for tracing—are now optional for office spaces, as well as for retail, food services, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and personal care services, among other commercial settings.

Importantly, unvaccinated individuals are required to continue wearing masks, in accordance with CDC guidance and New York's implementation of the CDC guidance. Additionally, health guidelines continue to be in effect for large-scale indoor event venues (indoor venues that hold more than 5,000 attendees), pre-K to grade 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and health care settings.

While NY State has removed almost all of the minimum standards for reopening, businesses are free to lift all or only some of the restrictions, adhere to previous NYS Forward guidance, or to implement other health precautions for their employees. As the rules and regulations continue to change, it is important that employers stay aware of their obligations and ensure their policies and procedures remain compliant, and consider how best to protect all of their employees.

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