



DEBORAH BUYER LAW

FOR THE BETTER

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COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted in New York: Updated Employer Guidance

With 70% of adult New Yorkers having received at least a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) on June 15, 2021 that the state's COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted effective immediately except for unvaccinated individuals and in certain settings (e.g. large venues, public transit, schools, etc.).

What this means for offices is that New York State's health guidance and industry specific guidelines -- including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, health screening, and contact information for tracing -- are now optional. Masks are still required for unvaccinated people.

With the removal of the State's minimum standard for reopening, offices may choose to lift all or some restrictions, continue to adhere to the State's archived guidance, or implement other health precautions for their employees and patrons. Offices may still require masks and six feet of social distancing within their establishments, regardless of vaccination status. Any mask requirements that offices implement must adhere to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For offices that choose to continue to adhere to the state's [industry specific guidelines](#), those guidelines were modified on June 8, 2021 in a variety of ways. For example, the guidelines were modified to change the employer screening questions to reduce the time periods the questions ask about (e.g. have you experienced symptoms in the last 48 hours vs. in the last 14 days), account for preexisting conditions, and exempt fully vaccinated or recently fully recovered (in the last 3 months) individuals from answering the close contact question.

This alert is for general information purposes and should not be construed as legal advice. If you would like information about this alert, please contact one of the firm's attorneys:

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