



Good afternoon,

On May 19th, New York State will adopt the CDC's "Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People" for most business and public settings. After extensive conversation with our Senior Leadership Team, **we have decided to follow suit and lift our mask wearing mandate for fully vaccinated individuals on May 19.**

Mask wearing will now be optional for fully vaccinated individuals.

We will operate from a place of trust and will not require proof of vaccination; **however, we expect those who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks, including children over 2 and under 12.**

People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. If you don't meet these requirements, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated. Note: If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated.

We support fully vaccinated individuals choosing to wear masks and will continue to make disposable masks available to all volunteers.

This policy will now be applied at our Mobile Food Pantries. Agency partners reserve the right to operate their programs as they see fit as long as it follows CDC guidelines.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier or one of our partner programs, please visit <https://foodbankst.volunteerhub.com/events> or contact us at volunteer@foodbankst.org.

Thank you for your partnership and support,

Natasha R. Thompson
President & CEO
Food Bank of the Southern Tier

