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COVID-19 Info Line

☎ 401-222-8022

(Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm) or

✉ RIDOH.COVID19Questions

After hours: Call 211

[Information for Healthcare Providers](#)

Related Executive Orders

- [Supplemental Emergency Declaration \(03/18/2020\)](#)
- [Supplemental Emergency Declaration \(03/16/2020\)](#)
- [Supplemental Emergency Declaration \(03/13/2020\)](#)
- [Declaration of Disaster Emergency \(03/09/2020\)](#)

Resources

Factsheets

- ✂ [10 things you can do to manage your health at home](#)
- ✂ [Department of Labor and Training: Workplace Fact Sheet](#)
- ✂ [Did you lose your health coverage?](#)
- ✂ [NJDOH: Isolation vs. Quarantine \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- ✂ [Novel Coronavirus \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- ✂ [Share Facts About COVID-19](#)
- ✂ [What to do if you are sick with COVID-19](#)

Guidelines

- ✂ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guidance for Athletic Administrators & Coaches in School & After-School Programs](#)
- ✂ [COVID-19 Preparedness and Response
Interim Guidance for Large Events](#)
- ✂ [Tips for Families: Coping with Stress from COVID-19](#)

Guides

- ✂ [Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope With the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- ✂ [RIGCD COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)

Instructions

- ✂ [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission \(3/11/20 RI risk level is minimal to moderate\)](#)
- ✂ [RI Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner & Medicaid Program Instructions COVID-19 State of Emergency](#)
- ✂ [Specimen Collection Kit Instructions for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Notices


- ✂ [Pharmacies Offering Delivery of Medications](#)

Other Languages

- ✂ [Nouveau Coronavirus de 2019 \(COVID-19 French\)](#)
- ✂ [Nouvo Kowonaviris 2019 \(COVID-19 Haitian Creole\)](#)
- ✂ [Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19 Chinese\)](#)

 [Novo coronavírus 2019 \(COVID-19 Portuguese\)](#)

 [Stop the Spread of Germs \(Chinese\)](#)

 [NJDOH: Isolation vs. Quarantine \(Chinese\)](#)

Podcast

 [What we know about coronavirus with Dr. Philip Chan, Associate Professor, Brown University](#)

Posters

 [Stop the Spread of Germs \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)

 [Viruses Don't Discriminate](#)

Other Languages

 [Stop the Spread of Germs: Other Languages](#)

Video

 [Press Conference Videos](#)

Web Pages

 [City of Providence, COVID-19 Information](#)

 [Coronavirus 2019 Information: National LGBT Cancer Network\(2020\)](#)

 [COVID-19 Global Cases Map](#)

 [PreventOverDoseRI COVID-19 Resources](#)

 [World Health Organization Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information](#)

COVID-19 Press Releases



03/20/2020 18:30 EDT

[Governor Activates National Guard, Extends Rhode Island Tax Filing Deadline Ten additional cases of COVID-19 in Rhode Island](#)

03/19/2020 18:15 EDT

[Eviction Processing Suspended During Crisis, Rhode Islanders Encouraged to Report Price Gouging](#)

03/18/2020 15:30 EDT

[Public Schools to Transition to Distance Learning for Two Weeks, Governor Announces New Directives Regarding Telehealth and Utility Services](#)

[More+](#)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019.

For the latest information on Rhode Island specific COVID-19 numbers, [see RIDOH's COVID-19 Disease Data webpage](#).

Someone's risk for COVID-19 is closely tied to their recent travel history, and the travel histories of their immediate contacts — specifically, travel to [areas with community transmission](#) of COVID-19 or close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19. Remember that interaction with someone who had contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19 does not pose a risk if that contact is not sick. One of the most important messages for us to remember is that someone's nationality alone is *not* a risk factor for COVID-19.

What Rhode Islanders should know

General guidance and information

- If you have traveled anywhere internationally in the last 14 days, self-quarantine for 14 days. That means do not go to work or school and stay at home.
- Avoid all crowded places, large events, and mass gatherings. However, people should continue doing essential errands (such as going to the grocery store).
- Through March 30th, there will be no on-site food consumption for restaurants, bars, coffee shops, or other food establishments in Rhode Island. (Establishments with a food license can continue to conduct pick-up, drive-thru and delivery only.)
- Whenever possible, avoid close personal contact with people in public. When greeting people avoid handshakes and hugs.

Medical and Quarantine Information

- To prevent infection with COVID-19, the CDC recommends **frequent handwashing with soap and warm water; coughing and sneezing into your elbow or a tissue; avoid touching mouth, nose, and eyes; and if you are sick, stay at home.** [MORE](#)
- There are many respiratory illnesses circulating in Rhode Island, such as the flu and the common cold. Having respiratory symptoms does not mean that you have COVID-19. People are at higher risk for COVID-19 if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath) AND if they were a contact of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 (or have traveled to [country with community transmission](#)).
- Someone is considered a contact if they have had direct, face-to-face contact with a person with COVID-19. Testing can only be done on individuals who have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 and who have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or travel history to a [country with ongoing community](#) spread of COVID-19. Testing individuals with no symptoms or history of travel is not recommended by CDC.
- If you are subject to [self-quarantine](#) that means:
 - Stay home.
 - Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
 - Do not use public transportation.
 - Separate yourself from other people in your home. As much as possible, you should stay in a different room from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **People who think they have COVID-19 should call their healthcare provider. These people should NOT go directly to a healthcare facility without calling a healthcare provider (unless they are experiencing a medical emergency).**

Health Insurance Information

- A special enrollment period for Rhode Islanders without health insurance is now available through April 15th, 2020 to qualified individuals who are uninsured. Visit HealthSourceRI.com to enroll, or call customer support or use our web chat function between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday at [☎ 1-855-840-4774](tel:1-855-840-4774). For anyone who is concerned that they need to be tested for coronavirus -- or anyone who is seeking care because of coronavirus exposure -- coverage will start retroactively.

School and Child Care Information

- The next two weeks - from Monday, March 23rd through Friday April 3 - will be distance learning weeks for all public schools in Rhode Island. During this time, school buildings will be closed to students, but school will be taking place remotely in homes across the state. After two weeks, the Governor and Dr. Alexander-Scott will reevaluate the situation and make a new determination.
- Due to the closure of schools, free "Grab and Go" meals are available for children throughout Rhode Island. [MORE](#)
- Child care centers advised to close effective Tuesday, March 17th. [MORE](#) [DHS WEBSITE](#)

Healthcare Facilities, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living

- Nursing home administrators have been directed to not allow any visitors (unless they are essential to the care of a resident). Additionally, nursing home administrators have been directed to continue actively screening staff, vendors, and all other people who enter facilities for illness and COVID-19 risks (for example, travel history or exposure to someone under investigation for COVID-19).
- Check [hospital websites](#) for visitation restrictions.

Employment Related Issues

- The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training has set up a COVID-19 Assistance Line and email address ([☎ 401-462-2020](tel:401-462-2020); [✉ dlt.covid19@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:dlt.covid19@dlt.ri.gov)). They are intended to provide support to people regarding COVID-19 and employment issues. The phone line is staffed Monday to Friday during business hours. [FACTSHEET](#) [MORE](#)

Commerce/Business Information

- **Information on SBA Disaster Loan Assistance** - The U.S. Small Business Administration announced it is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Rhode Island small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). [MORE](#)
- **Microsoft Free Offerings** - For businesses, municipalities, K-12 and other entities, Microsoft is providing six months of Office 365 tools for free to enable remote collaboration, file sharing and video conferencing. They're also offering free assistance to set up these tools. [MORE](#)

Medical Supply Donations

RIDOH State Health Laboratories have been testing RI patients for COVID-19 since February 29, 2020, when we had the first positive test result. We have significantly ramped up our capacity to test, but are now severely limited because of the nationwide shortage of critical supplies and reagents. We appreciate all offers of supplies we have received so far and are encouraged by the outpouring of support from the research community and the public. [MORE](#)

People with general questions about COVID-19 can call [☎ 401-222-8022](tel:401-222-8022).

Please see [UPDATED INFORMATION FROM CDC](#) (this may take a moment to load). For answers to frequently asked questions, please read the [RIDOH/CDC fact sheet](#).

Publications & Resources

[For Businesses +](#)

[For Care givers +](#)

[For Chronic Condition Patients +](#)

[For Educators and Trainers +](#)

[For Employees +](#)

[For Employers +](#)

[For Health Plans +](#)

[For Healthcare Administrators +](#)

[For Healthcare Providers +](#)

[For Healthcare Workers +](#)

[For Laboratorians +](#)

[For Long Term or Residential Care Managers +](#)

[For Parents +](#)

[For Patients and Caregivers +](#)

[For Public +](#)

[For Public Health Professionals +](#)

[For School Administrators +](#)

[For School Nurses +](#)

[For Teens +](#)

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[Information for . . .](#)

CONTACT


Department of Health

3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

[Email us](#)

[Directions](#)

 Phone: 401-222-5960

 After Hours Phone: 401-276-8046

RI Relay 711

[Phonebook](#)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Vital Records 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Food Protection 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Parking restrictions until 3 PM

PUBLICATIONS CENTER

[Order Materials](#)

OTHER LANGUAGES

[Español](#)

[Português](#)

 [FOR EMPLOYEES](#)

WEBSITE POLICIES



Official Website of the State of Rhode Island

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