

Jamestown's Response to COVID-19 Virus including information and links to the State of Rhode Island's response by the R.I. Department of Health (D.O.H.) and the U. S. Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.)

Dear Residents, Businesses, and Community Partners:

Thank you! Thank you for staying home, limiting social interaction, washing your hands, and using face coverings in public. Rhode Island is doing far better than earlier models predicted; however, we are still in-between two major hot spots, which means it is increasingly important that we continue to follow stay at home orders and other health directives. We all have the ability to slow the spread!

I will again remind residents and visitors to keep our first responders and healthcare workers in mind. Every time you put your own health at risk, you are putting their health at risk, as well.

National Emergency Declared COVID-19: On March 9, 2020 the Governor of the State of Rhode Island declared a State of Emergency declaring the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency <http://www.Governor.ri.gov>

On March 16, 2020 the Jamestown Town Council met and passed an Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19 activating the Town Emergency Plan. <http://www.jamestownri.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=56269>

How will positive test results be reported to the public: The Rhode of Island Department of Health has jurisdiction over all cases of the virus. This includes all the health protocols performed by emergency services, physicians and treatment centers. As well as orders of quarantine or decontamination, once the Department of Health has determined a person has a positive test for COVID-19 and attempts to track where the person has been since being infected. They will not identify the people who test positive in accordance with HIPPA laws. For more information visit the R.I. Department of Health at <https://health.ri.gov/data/covid-19/> and <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>

Jamestown's Response: The Town has continued to monitor and follow all State and Federal guidance to help prevent and contain the spread of the virus for the safety of our community. We encourage every citizen to follow the Department of Health and CDC's scientific based recommendations by preventing contamination by properly sanitizing all public places such as supermarkets, take out from restaurants and all local establishments. It is also recommended you follow this practice at your place of work and in your homes. Protect yourself by familiarizing with the most up to date information on the virus and how it spreads and by applying these valued precautions also recommended by health experts such as:

- Get your flu shot and encourage the people around you to do the same.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (especially bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, door handles and toys for children) by wiping them down with a household disinfectant.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.

→ Those who have family members sick at home with a positive COVID-19 should closely follow your Doctor's advice.

→ The CDC does recommend that **all people wear a face cover** to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. It is important that we keep the supply of the medical profession's masks available for those who really need them (e.g., healthcare providers and those who are sick). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

→ **Keep a contact log** of the people you have come in contact with every day. This will assist the Dept. of Health to trace your contacts in the event that you contract COVID-19.

TOWN FACILITIES All Town Department Services are available by telephone, email, on-line or by appointment only:

- All Town Government buildings are closed with limited public access by appointment only.
- **All Departments within the Town Hall** are offering services through telephone, on-line, email, fax, use of drop box and walk up window service located on the West Street side of the Town Hall by appointment only.
- **Recreation Department** also is available by telephone, email or on-line services.
- **The Senior Services Center** meal site is closed; however, the Department continues to coordinate box lunches available either to be picked up or delivered, they are also working with the Jamestown food pantries in coordinating food distribution, you can call the Senior Center for services at (401) 423-9804.
- **Police, Fire and Public Works Departments** limited access, to the buildings also by telephone, email, on-line and by appointment only. Responses for Emergency Services have not changed.
- **The Library** is closed and can be contacted by telephone or email.
- **Jamestown Schools** are Distance Learning and can be contacted by telephone or email.

Town Government meetings: our usual schedule of meetings have been postponed in an effort to maintain the social distances and avoid further contamination. However, the Governor has signed an executive order allowing audio and or video public meetings. The Jamestown Town Council has **scheduled a meeting for April 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** Please check the Secretary of States web site for information and instructions on access to this meeting and other scheduled meeting dates. <https://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/open-government> also available on the Town of Jamestown's on line calendar and www.jamestownri.gov

Town Clerks Office is encouraging Voting by Mail Ballot for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. The primary has now been postponed to June 2, 2020. Mail Ballot applications are available by contacting the Clerk's office at 401-423-9800.

The Mail Ballot is available on line at: <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Content/Pdfs/Calendar/PPP-MailBallot.pdf>

What to do if you feel sick: Call your Doctor: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms, such as fever, chills, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. In the event you call for the Jamestown Rescue please advise the dispatcher if you suspect you may have the COVID-19 virus. It is recommended by the DOH you perform a daily self-check if you have any of these symptoms call your doctor.

What to do if you are in contact or near a person who has tested positive for COVID-19:

Call your Doctor or medical treatment center, they will advise you depending on the situation what steps to take and what to watch for. They will determine if it was a direct contact. If so, that may require a quarantine period. Indirect contact may require a close self-monitoring and restricted behavior during the monitoring period. Each event must be carefully considered by a health care professional.

What can you do to stop the spread of COVID-19: Scientists have said we should be following the CDC and Department of Health Recommendations such as ‘Social Distancing’, stay at least six (6) feet apart and no gatherings of more than five (5) people regardless of age, washing your hands for at least twenty (3/28/20 Governor [order](#)), (20) seconds as well as all other sanitary precautions listed above in this document and on their web sites. If we all do our part, we can stop the spread of this virus or at least slow it down, this will ultimately help more people survive.

How can you Help: Following the self-protection/prevention recommendations and protocols by the CDC and the RI Department of Health (referred in this document) It is suggested you call to check on your neighbors and especially the ones you know might need help. If you are able, consider calling the Rhode Island Blood Center and inquire if you’re a candidate to donate a pint of blood. If you have an extra supply of medical masks, respirators, disposable gloves, goggles or any type of personal protective gear offer to donate to first responders. Consider a donation to the Jamestown Food pantries. It has been proven in the past that Jamestowners are truly friendly and always willing to help each other. Any act of kindness in this difficult situation will help our Towns residents. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Betsey Anderson at the Senior Center at 401-423-9804 or email Chief Mello at emello@jamestownri.net

Rhode Islanders can sign up for a free account on www.NextDoor.com. On their platform, Rhode Islanders can offer help to their neighbors or request help for things like grocery shopping and dog walking.

Help is available for people living in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19. Visit www.RIDelivers.com for connections to groceries, home supplies, restaurants, and mutual aid groups. People can also call 2-1-1.

Can you be tested if you have no symptoms: Only if you develop symptoms such as fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with [ongoing spread of COVID-19](#), stay home and call your healthcare provider. Older patients and individuals who have severe underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their healthcare provider early, even if their illness is mild. If you have severe symptoms, such as persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips of face, contact your healthcare provider or emergency room and seek care immediately. Your doctor will determine if you have signs and symptoms and will issue an order for a COVID-19 test at one of the drive-up testing sites at URI in South Kingstown, at CCRI in Warwick, or at Rhode Island College in Providence (adults and children).

Additional option; Go to the CVS [website](#) to be pre-screened for testing and to get an appointment (adult 18+ only).

March 28, 2020 the Governor of Rhode Island issued Executive Order 20-14 ([order](#)). Requires all people residing in RI to stay at home unless traveling to work, for medical treatment or to obtain necessities. No more than five people at any gathering. This order amends the previous order (20-13) in the portion that had required New York residents coming into Rhode Island to quarantine. The order now includes all States, any person traveling into RI from another State by any means of any type of transportation must self-quarantine for 14 days. Also, if you work in another State and must travel to work when you return to RI you must self-quarantine. Finally, effective Monday March 30, 2020 the order closes certain non -essential retail businesses, link business lists; <https://dbr.ri.gov/critical/> For a list of critical retail businesses, please [click here \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

COVID-19 has affected all corners of our community in some way. There is assistance available for families, mental health needs, those unemployed, and businesses.

Individuals and Families

- If you are unemployed or have been laid off, please contact the Dept. of Labor and Training. Their factsheet will help guide you and answer your questions ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- The Federal CARES Act extended unemployment benefits for gig economy workers, small business owners, workers for hire, self-employed individuals and those who are otherwise ineligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. Apply [here](#).
- There are over 2,000 job openings in R.I. Visit [EmployRI](#).
- Utility shut-offs have been suspended until April 15th. Evictions have been suspended until May 17th.
- Free "Grab and Go" meals are available for children throughout Rhode Island. Locations [here](#).
- Health Source RI will remain open for new subscribers until April 30th. [Visit](#)
- Rhode Island partnered with Care.com to increase childcare access. In addition to providing 90 days of free, premium access to their website, Care.com has created portals specifically for frontline workers and caregivers in R.I.- www.care.com/rineed.
- Hotel rooms are available at reduced costs for quarantine/isolation at [Visit RI Havens](#).
- **Jamestown's Food pantry:** Contact Betsey Anderson @ 401-423-9804 or at Banderson@jamestownri.net
- BH Link: If you or a someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help available: [401-414-LINK \(5465\)](tel:401-414-LINK(5465)), <https://www.bhlink.org/>, Triage Center: 975 Waterman Ave., East Providence
- For mental health assistance for children under 18, please call [855-KID\(543\)-LINK\(5465\)](tel:855-KID(543)-LINK(5465))
- The R.I. United Way 211 hotline is available 24 hours, 7 days a week to answer questions and connect you with the supports you may need.

Businesses and Non-Profits

- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advances: [Questions](#) and [Application](#)
- SBA Paycheck Protection Program: [Questions](#) and [Application](#)
- Short-term bridge loans for restaurants and microbusinesses: R.I. restaurants and small businesses are eligible (businesses must have 1 to 10 employees; restaurants may have any number of employees). Applications [here](#).
- [Tech Support for RI Businesses](#)
- R.I. Small Business Hotline: (401) 521-HELP
- R.I. nonprofit organizations at the forefront of COVID-19 response can apply for grants from the Rhode Island Foundation/United Way [here](#) or [here in Spanish](#).
- Rhode Island Superior Court [business protection program](#) for those that may have defaulted on their debts during this time
- State and federal personal and business corporation tax filings have been extended until July 15th.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding in this uncertain time.

Contact us: If you have any Town related questions or concerns please send your questions to the Town Administrator at: jhainsworth@jamestownri.net or call 401-423-9805.

Hopefully this information is helpful to you, as we all work together to stop the spread of this virus. Updated information will be provided on a continual basis as new developments evolve and additional guidance is provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Additional Resources:

- [FAQ's](#)
- [Germ Prevention Strategies](#)
- [COVID 19 Symptoms](#)
- [RIDOH](#) (Additional RI Dept. of Health Info link)
- [Respiratory Clinics](#)
- Governor Gina M. Raimondo's Executive Orders <http://www.governor.ri.gov/newsroom/orders/>

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