

Town of Jamestown

Town Administrator



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Jamie A. Hainsworth
Town Administrator

November 16, 2020

Dear Residents, Businesses, and Community Partners:

I hope you are doing well and staying safe.

We have just completed the presidential election signifying one of the most important days in celebrating and demonstrating our Country's democracy. I am most grateful for the excellent work and expertise demonstrated by our Board of Canvassers, Poll workers, the Town Clerk and Staff. They made sure voting was a positive experience. Jamestown had a record number of 76 % of registered voters exercise their right.

COVID-19 – This week, the State of Rhode Island announced changes and additional restrictions to stem the rise in COVID-19 cases. Please familiarize yourself with the guidance below, which is in effect for the next two weeks.

1. Rhode Islanders should only be going out for essential activities, such as work, doctors' appointments, and the grocery store.
2. **Stay-at-home advisory** (*Effective 11/8/20*):
 - a. 10 p.m. – 5 a.m. Sunday - Thursday
 - b. 10:30 p.m. - 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.
3. **Social gatherings** are limited to 10 people or less

The Social Gathering Limit is 10.

Social Gatherings = Parties

- Friend Gatherings
- Family Gatherings
- House Parties
- Holiday Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Dinner Parties
- Baby Showers
- Game Nights
- Sleepovers
- BBQs

- a. Please wear masks.
 - b. Groups must remain consistent and be limited to interactions with the same 10 people or less.
 - c. For instance, residents should not be socializing with 10 people on Saturday, and a new group of 10 people on Monday.
4. **Early closures:** All restaurants, bars, gyms, recreational facilities, and personal services must close at 10 p.m. Sunday – Thursday and at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. (*Effective 11/8/20*)
 5. **Capacity Limits:** place of worship, large retail stores, and catered events, click [here](#).

6. Retail establishments must actively ask customers not wearing masks to do so immediately, or vacate the store.
7. **Sports:**
 - a. A maximum of two spectators for any athlete younger than 18 will be allowed. All spectators and athletes are required to wear a mask at all times, including during practices and games (starting 11/9/20).

b. Youth and Amateur Sports have been categorized as Low, Moderate, and High risk with limitations for each (*In effect until December 31, 2020.*)

RI Youth & Amateur Sports

- **Low risk** → competitive play and hosting inter-state tournaments allowed:

- Track and field, individual swimming, golf, weightlifting, skiing, sideline cheer, cross country, archery, cycling, equestrian, snowboarding, singles figure skating, solo sailing

- **Moderate risk** → competitive play allowed, inter-state tournaments prohibited:

- Basketball, ice hockey, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, gymnastics, field hockey, tennis, swimming relays, girls lacrosse, water polo, fencing, competitive group cycling, non-competitive dance, individual competitive dance, team sailing

- **High risk** → competitive play and inter-state tournaments prohibited:

- Wrestling, football, boys lacrosse, competitive cheer, rugby, boxing, competitive martial arts, pairs figure skating

For all sports, spectators are limited, masks are required (including during gameplay), clear record-keeping and contact tracing are mandatory, and out-of-state travel is prohibited.

All Town of Jamestown government buildings are open with necessary safety precautions and some limited access. However, all services remain available by telephone, appointment, drop box, window service, email and other electronic means.

To Track Covid-19 cases by municipalities go to:

<https://ridoh-covid-19-response-geography-site-rihealth.hub.arcgis.com>

Jamestown Food Pantries: Community food pantries should you need assistance. Jamestown Community Food Pantry 401-560-4080, St Mark Food Pantry 401-423-1421 or the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center 401-846-4828.

We ask all residents to refrain from hosting or attending gatherings with over 10 people; remain 6 ft apart when in public; and always carry a face covering with you for times when social distancing cannot be maintained, or in indoor settings. Now is not the time to let our guards down.

Reminders:

- All gatherings must be limited to 10 people or less;
 - Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per person.
- Limit your circle of contacts to 10 people or less;
- Masks and face coverings should be worn when distancing is not possible;
- Common surfaces should be cleaned frequently; and
- Hands should be washed or sanitized often.
- For more guidance on Phase III, visit: <https://reopeningri.com/>
- Local businesses should familiarize themselves with the Phase III [guidelines](#). The R.I. Department of Health will continue their enforcement of restaurants/bars/businesses.

Please do not let your guard down. As a reminder, free asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is available at portal.ri.gov.

Businesses:

- **Business Assistance:** The [Restore RI](#) program has been expanded. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).
- **Remote Work Technology Grants** available [here](#).
- **Relief program for restaurants and bars** that must close earlier than usual due to COVID-19. The Division of Taxation will be posting more information [here](#).
- Also, emergency financial grants for Rhode Island's small businesses are now open. Learn more about the process at <https://commerceri.com/about-us/restore-ri/>.

Please remember 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.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance in keeping Jamestown a healthy community. If you have any questions or concerns, please call my office at 401-423-9805 or contact me by email at jhainsworth@jamestownri.net.

Sincerely,

Jamie A. Hainsworth, Town Administrator

General Information:

- **Re-Opening Rhode Island's Economy:** <https://www.reopeningri.com/>
- **Re-Opening Rhode Island's Schools:** <https://www.back2schoolri.com/>
- **COVID Guidance in Multiple Languages:** <https://health.ri.gov/covid/multiplelanguages/>
- **CRUSH COVID RI Mobile App:** [Download Now](#)
- **COVID-19 Governor's Daily Update:** Sign-up [here](#).
- **RI Department of Health COVID-19 Data:** [Visit RIDOH](#).
- School Support Helpline for RI educators, students, & families: <http://tinyurl.com/rihelpline> or (401) 232-4725

- **Testing:**
 - Rhode Islanders who have any COVID-19 [symptoms](#). Learn how to get tested [here](#).
 - Pre-K -Grade 12 student and staff testing program: [Click here for information](#).
 - Rhode Islanders who do not have symptoms, but:
 - Are high-contact workers
 - Recently attended a large gathering such as a protest or demonstration
 - Traveled to a [place where cases are spiking](#).
 - You will be able to sign up for an asymptomatic test (if you don't have symptoms) by going to portal.ri.gov.

- **Travel:**
 - **If you are planning to travel to a state that requires a COVID-19 test** in order to avoid extended quarantine, you can schedule a test through portal.ri.gov. Individuals will receive their results within 24-48 hours.

- **Rhode Islanders who travel** to or from the states listed [here](#) must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Rhode Island and schedule an asymptomatic test.
 - **Travelers coming to Rhode Island** from one of [these states](#) with a COVID-19 positivity rate of higher than 5%, must quarantine for 14 days and self-monitor for symptoms.
 - As an exception, you may provide proof of a negative test for COVID-19 that was taken within 72 hours prior to arrival in Rhode Island.
 - For more information, please visit: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel/>
- **Behavioral Health Resources**
 - Adults seeking mental or behavioral health support should call BH Link at 414-LINK (5465). For services for children, call 1-855-543-5465.
 - People with moderate to severe opioid use disorder (OUD) can access telehealth service for initiation of buprenorphine treatment at 401-606-5456.
- **Business Support**
 - **Business Assistance:** For business economic support, constituents should visit www.commerceri.com, call Commerce RI at 401-521-4357 (HELP), or email them at info@commerceri.com.
 - **Breakrooms:** The Governor has [ordered](#) on the closure of breakrooms for 90 days. Employers are still being encouraged to let people work from home to the greatest extent possible.
 - **Business Assistance:** The [Restore RI](#) program has been expanded. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).
 - **Remote Work Technology Grants** available [here](#).
 - **Relief program for restaurants and bars** that must close earlier than usual due to COVID-19. The Division of Taxation will be posting more information [here](#).
 - Please encourage your employees to sign up for asymptomatic testing at portal.ri.gov
- **Child and Family Assistance**
 - **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** participants are now able to select and pay for their groceries online using their EBT card at Amazon and participating Walmart stores. For more details, visit dhs.ri.gov.
 - **American Red Cross:** Established the Virtual Family Assistance Center to support those that lost loved ones. Visit their [website](#) or call (833) 492-0094.
- **Employment Support**
 - **RI Navigator** provides resources for jobseekers to learn new skills, explore career options, and prepare for a job. The platform also allows jobseekers to find and connect to supportive services around barriers to employment. Additionally, jobseekers have the option of talking directly with a career guide through the [RI Reconnect \[r20.rs6.net\]](http://RIReconnect[r20.rs6.net]) to get one-on-one counseling and support on educational and vocational options.
 - **Unemployment Insurance:** Constituents seeking assistance with filing a COVID-19 unemployment claim should first visit dlt.ri.gov for information, applications, and factsheets. Contact the Department of Labor and Training at 401-234-4280 or dlt.covid19@dlt.ri.gov.
 - **Employment:** Jobseekers should visit <http://www.EmployRI.org> to find jobs as well as other important resources including information on unemployment insurance, résumé tips, and other COVID-19 updates.

- **Food and Medication Delivery Services**

- **RI Delivers:** Through the Office of Healthy Aging, RI Delivers connects those in quarantine or isolation with access to food and medication delivery services. To contact call 2-1-1 or the Point at 401-462-4444. Visit www.RIDelivers.com
- **RI Thrives** is available for deliveries of groceries, medication, and health, beauty & medical supplies. For more information go to: www.rithrives.com.

- **Housing Assistance and Information**

- **Safe Harbor Housing Program:** an eviction diversion effort to serve as an alternative to the traditional eviction process and provide landlords and tenants an opportunity to work towards a solution outside of the court system. Tenants who are behind in their rent because of COVID-19 and in danger of eviction, or who have already received an eviction notice, can **call 211** to be connected to the program.
- **Renters and Homeowners:** For constituents seeking housing-related information and resources, visit: <https://www.rihousing.com/covid-19/>
- **Housing Help RI:** The statewide homelessness prevention initiative provides emergency housing assistance to very low-income renters who have been severely affected by the COVID-19 emergency and are at immediate risk of homelessness. Visit: <https://www.housinghelpri.com/>

Violence Prevention Support

- **Safe at Home:** The Rhode Island State Police launched [Safe at Home](#) to raise awareness of the threat of increased violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safe at Home is focused on connecting with those who may be facing violence at home and providing all Rhode Islanders with resources to identify and help those at-risk.
- **Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence** and member agencies are open, as are domestic violence shelters. Those seeking help can call 1-800-494-8100.

Additional Resources and Support

- **RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** - The Commission now has a website dedicated to COVID-19, with specific information that is critically important to members of the community with hearing loss. The site has videos presented in American Sign Language <http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/covid-19/>

Questions About COVID-19:

Please visit the [R.I. Dept. of Health website](#) for factual up-to-date information or call 401-222-8022. In addition, the United Way is available 24-7 to answer questions and connect residents with resources through their 211 hotline.