





Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Care Transformation Collaborative - Rhode Island

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What is COVID-19?



- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces.
- There are seven coronaviruses that can infect humans.
- Most cause mild to moderate illness (e.g., common cold) though some have caused severe illness (e.g., severe acute respiratory syndrome).

What is COVID-19?



- Coronaviruses can be transmitted between animals and humans.
- Sometimes, coronaviruses that infect animals evolve and become new coronaviruses that infect humans.
- Three examples of this:
 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV)
 - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)
 - **Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

What is COVID-19?



- This is a new virus. We are still learning about how it behaves (i.e., transmission, survival on surfaces, prevention). We are closely following current science and CDC guidance.
- Current science suggests a person infected with COVID-19 can infect between 2 and 3 other people.
 - For comparison, someone infected with influenza could infect another 1 to 2 people. Someone infected with measles could infect 12 to 18 people.
- Most person-to-person spread of COVID-19 happens through exposure to respiratory droplets of a person infected with COVID-19.

What is COVID-19?



- Respiratory droplets may be spread through coughing, sneezing, saliva, and/or discharge from nose (similar to how influenza viruses spread).
- “Close contact” is defined as being within six feet of someone for an extended period of time.
- Most people who become infected recover from disease without needing special treatment.

What is COVID-19?



- Illness associated with COVID-19 ranges from mild disease to acute respiratory illness to severe pneumonia.
- It is possible that older adults and persons with underlying chronic medical conditions (e.g., immunocompromising conditions) may be at higher risk for more severe outcomes.
- Current information supports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic. Some asymptomatic spread may be possible, **but it is not thought to be the main way the virus is spread.**

COVID-19: Outbreak Summary



- First identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019
- Declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization on January 30
- Declared a public health emergency by the United States on January 31
- State of Emergency declared in RI on March 9
- WHO declared Pandemic on March 11
- On March 13, Gov. Raimondo issued executive order quarantining anyone who has traveled outside of the 50 US states
- President Trump declared National Emergency on March 14

COVID-19: Outbreak Summary



- International situation, as of March 16:
 - Over 169,000 cases of COVID-19 around the world
 - Over 77,000 cases of COVID-19 have recovered
 - Over 6,000 COVID-19 deaths

COVID-19: Outbreak Summary



- US cases, March 13
 - 1,629 cases (reported by the CDC. This case count does not include testing results for persons repatriated to the US from China and Japan).
- RI cases, March 16
 - 21 cases
 - For these cases, the risks have been associated with healthcare, travel, and exposure to a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.
 - There is limited community spread in Rhode Island.

COVID-19: RIDOH Response



- RIDOH activated its Incident Command System response on January 30.
- RIDOH is building on work from previous events, like H1N1, to develop and implement our plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.



COVID-19: RIDOH Response



- We are working with the healthcare system to provide clinical guidance on evaluating patients, testing, and reporting cases, and we are in regular communication with our infectious disease experts who are monitoring the evolving science around the virus.
- We are working with the healthcare system to survey supplies and to review surge plans (emergency departments, inpatient, intensive care unit).

COVID-19: RIDOH Response



- RIDOH is communicating with a wide range of community partners across Rhode Island. These include schools, universities, WIC agencies, businesses, and faith-based and community-based organizations.
- We are sharing business guidance to help the public and private sectors ensure they can operate with adaptations like telework and flexible sick leave policies, as well as how to respond if an employee gets sick.

COVID-19: RIDOH Response



- As of March 16, schools, child care centers, and food establishments are closed.
 - Delivery and take out options are still available.
 - Beginning 3/16 free “grab and go” meals are available for Rhode Island kids. Food sites are listed on health.ri.gov.
- Nursing home administrators have been directed to not allow any visitors (unless they are essential to the care of a resident).
- Gatherings and events of over 25 people should be cancelled or postponed.
- If you have traveled internationally in the last 14 days, **please quarantine for 14 days** starting the day of your return to the country. Please monitor for symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath).

COVID-19 RIDOH Response



- We are also encouraging schools, businesses, and municipalities to review the [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#) to help guide discussions with your leadership team about non-pharmaceutical interventions.
- There are three main areas of strategies for community mitigation:
 - **Personal Protective Measures:** Stay home when ill, cover your cough, wash hands frequently, practice touching your face less, limit contacts like hand shaking, and follow the rules for personal quarantine if you become a suspected case
 - **Community Protective Measures:** Social distancing, telecommuting, distance learning for our schools, new signs at sink stations and front doors, hand sanitizers on poles at front doors
 - **Environmental Protective Measures:** Cleaning and disinfecting door handles and push bars, railings, bathrooms, sinks, water bubblers. Schools may want to consider what is being done in gymnasiums or on buses.

COVID-19: RIDOH Response



- The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training has established a hotline and email address for questions about employment:
 - 401-462-2020 and dlt.covid19@dlt.ri.gov
- It's extremely important right now that we do all we can do to limit or prevent the spread of COVID-19. **If you are sick, stay home from work.**
- If your place of business remains open and you are unable to work, you may be eligible for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI).
- If your place of business is closed, or you are told not to come in, and you are not getting paid, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI).
- Most Rhode Island private sector workers are eligible for earned sick and safe leave. The benefits provided by this leave enable employees to take time off from work to care for themselves or family members that have been impacted by COVID-19.

COVID-19 RIDOH Response



- To ensure that RIDOH is coordinating as closely as possible with CDC officials managing the COVID-19 response at the national level, a five-person team from the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) has been embedded at RIDOH. EIS is a long-standing, globally recognized fellowship program, renowned for its investigative and emergency response efforts.

COVID-19: Prevention



- COVID-19 is spread in a manner similar to how influenza viruses are spread. This means we are familiar with some ways to *prevent* its spread.
 - Wash hands with soap and water frequently.
 - If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Disinfect frequently touched surfaces (countertops, doorknobs, railings, children's toys) with regular household cleaners.
 - If you feel ill, stay home from work or school.
 - Avoid nonessential gatherings

COVID-19 Prevention



- Consider building a COVID-19 emergency kit:
 - Have a two-week supply of water and food
 - Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply at home
 - Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand (including pain reliever, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins)
 - Have copies and electronic versions of health records for personal reference
 - Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home

(source: [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov))

COVID-19: Prevention



- If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.
 - **It is important to call your provider or facility *in advance and discuss your symptoms.***
 - Our healthcare workers and facilities are crucial to helping us prevent the spread and respond to illness. We need to care for these resources.
- **The CDC does not advise use of facemasks for healthy individuals.** Please reserve use of facemasks for those who are ill and the healthcare workers who are caring for them.

COVID-19: Prevention



- **Stay informed.**

- For **general questions** about COVID-19, call RIDOH at 401-222-8022 (if you have concerns about your health, **please call your provider first**)
 - For clinical questions from providers: RIDOH.ProviderQuestions@health.ri.gov
 - For general questions: RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov
 - For COVID-19 information and employment questions, please call the Department of Labor and Training at 401-462-2020, or email dlt.covid19@dlt.ri.gov
- The RIDOH website, CDC website, and WHO website provide up-to-date guidance and situational reports on COVID-19:
 - www.health.ri.gov/covid
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
 - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



Additional Guidance for Healthcare Providers

COVID-19: Testing



- Testing capacity continues to ramp up in RI.
- Screening patients and deciding who should be tested:
 - RIDOH State Health Laboratories are prioritizing those at highest risk (healthcare workers, hospitalized patients, those who live in congregate settings) as hospital and commercial laboratory capacity in Rhode Island and nationally builds up.

COVID-19: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



- RIDOH is working to increase availability of PPE. Our goal is to help supplement supplies for healthcare facilities, EMS providers, and selected outpatient providers while supply chain catches up with PPE demand.
- RIDOH has a limited supply of PPE and is focusing on providing PPE to healthcare workers in high-risk environments.
- At this time, PPE is not available for non-healthcare workers.
- Visit health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/for/providers for the latest information and updates.

