



**Town of Jamestown**  
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Jamie A. Hainsworth  
Town Administrator

May 19, 2020

Dear Residents, Businesses, and Community Partners:

Rhode Island is currently in [Phase I](#) of the re-opening of our economy. Our residents have been very patient and responsive to the health guidelines. Thank you. We want to continue to move forward and not backwards. The only way to do that, until we have a vaccine or a cure, is to contain the virus through social distancing, washing our hands, wearing masks, and staying home if we are feeling sick.

Local businesses are working hard to implement the re-opening guidelines. Here at Jamestown Town hall, we are working hard as well to make sure that we are providing support for our local businesses. The Jamestown Town Council held a special meeting last week and approved measures/licenses to allow several restaurants beginning May 18<sup>th</sup> to use the municipal parking lot on Narragansett Avenue to operate outside dining services. For more information and guidelines, please refer to the state's guidelines and checklists [here](#), and complete their COVID-19 plan to keep on hand ( [ENG](#) | [ESP](#) ). If you are a local business that has questions or needs assistance, please contact me at [jhainsworth@jamestownri.net](mailto:jhainsworth@jamestownri.net) or call 401-423-9805.

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.

As a reminder, **all residents and visitors** must adhere to the following:

- Anyone who is sick should stay home and self-isolate
- When people are in public, they should wear a cloth face covering.
  - A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It could be sewn by hand or improvised from household items such as scarves, T-shirts, or bandanas.
- Groups of no more than five people.
  - Always avoid close personal contact with other people in public.
- 14-day quarantine for domestic and international travel.
- Keep a 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.
- 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 eye, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- 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.

In addition, the following guidance applies to **businesses**:

- All non-critical retail businesses with a physical location in Rhode Island can re-open for in-store pickup and limited browsing.
  - Non-critical retail businesses may allow up to one customer per 300 square feet of store area open to customers generally.
  - Entertainment and close contact businesses remain closed.
  - A list of critical retail businesses can be found [here](#).
- Restaurants are open for take-out, delivery or outdoor dining (no dining-in).
  - The sale of beer, wine, and mixed drinks are allowed.
- For more information, resources, and guidance for businesses, visit [Re-Opening RI](#).

### **Local Updates:**

**Jamestown summer camps:** We are currently reviewing state guidelines regarding summer camps. We hope to have a decision and a plan in the near future so our residents can begin to plan for childcare.

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

**Budget:** The Town Council has presented its budget, now awaiting the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) which has been rescheduled to June 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. due to the rules on social gatherings. We expect that our financial town meeting will look different this year in light of COVID-19 precautions and restrictions. For the past two months, we have continued to work with other communities, the League of Cities and Towns, and the Governor's Office to determine the best way to proceed while balancing the need for transparency and local decision making with health and safety. Additionally, we are committed to lessening the burden on our residents and local businesses. This will be a very difficult budget year, and we will have to get creative to continue to provide the best services to our residents. We are closely tracking the state budget process and federal stimulus, which will affect us locally.

**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.

**Resident Recreation Passes:** [are now available for sale online here.](#) You can also choose to download and mail your forms in [by clicking here.](#)

### **Important Information:**

If you are feeling sick and exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, visit the Department of Health's [self-checker](#) and schedule a test:

- Call your healthcare provider (if you have one) to get 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). You must be referred by a physician to be tested.

Or

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

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**

- **Unemployment:**
  - Factsheet to help guide you and answer your questions ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
  - Apply [here](#)
  - Gig economy workers, small business owners, workers for hire, self-employed individuals, apply [here](#).
- **Job openings:** [EmployRI](#).
- **Utilities and Evictions:** Utility shut-offs have been suspended until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Evictions have been suspended until May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mortgages:** 20 local financial institutions have agreed to a 90-day grace period on mortgage payments and a 60-day moratorium on foreclosures and evictions. [Visit](#).
- **Federal student loan** payments have been suspended: [studentaid.gov](#)
- **Meals for Children:** Free "Grab and Go" meals are available for children throughout Rhode Island. Locations [here](#).
- **Food Delivery:** [RI Delivers and RI Thrives](#)
- **Childcare:** 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.
- **Distance learning support** for families, visit the [Highlander Institute](#)
- **RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** COVID-19 information for members of the community with hearing loss. [Visit](#)
- **Hotel rooms** are available at reduced costs for quarantine/isolation at [Visit RI Havens](#).
- **Mental Health:**
  - 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.

## **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/>

## **Businesses and Non-Profits**

- R.I. Small Business Hotline: (401) 521-HELP
- 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](#).
- RI Congregate Care Wage Supplement Fund: provides increased wages for healthcare workers making less than \$20/hour. Employers apply at [RI Health & Human Services](#).
- Microenterprise Stabilization Grant Program: Assistance for small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19 and left out of federal stimulus programs to-date with grants of up to \$5,000. Funds may be used for working capital to cover business costs, such as rent, staffing, utilities. [Visit](#).
- [Tech Support for RI Businesses](#)
- 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.

**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 hotlines.

Thank you for your support and cooperation during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Jamie A. Hainsworth, Town Administrator