REOPENING RI: TESTING THE WATER

Update on Phase I

May 4, 2020
THE PLAN

Our strategy to reopen the economy is a phased approach to maintain flexibility.

Weathering the storm
We've developed a robust emergency response to an unprecedented public health crisis.

Phase I: Testing the water
We’ll resume business and social activity on a limited basis while significant restrictions remain in place to protect public health and safety.

Phase II: Navigating our way
We’ll try new models for doing business and for living while social distancing.

Phase III: Picking up speed
Most businesses will be open with new guidelines. Travel and other restrictions may continue.

Eventually, we’ll land
We’ll arrive at our destination, stronger and more resilient, with fewer restrictions.
IN PHASE I: STAY CLOSE TO HOME

We’re focused on getting back to work – while protecting health and safety.

• The stay-at-home order lifts, but we should still aim to stay close to home. The goal is to limit our networks.

• Everyone who can work from home should continue to work from home. Employees of office-based businesses who need to go to the office may do so on a very limited basis.

• Elective medical procedures resume under safety guidelines.

• All Rhode Islanders who have deferred healthcare needs, including immunizations, well visits, or specialty care, are encouraged to reach out to their primary care doctor. Many specialty providers such as orthopedists, neurologists, and cardiologists remain open for telehealth and needed care. Telehealth is covered and encouraged, including for mental health care.

• Some parks open, and public parking is now available. Pick a convenient park for a walk or a run (and please limit your time).

• Non-critical retailers that were previously closed reopen with capacity restrictions, though preorders are encouraged, and shoppers should limit browsing time.

• Continue ordering delivery and take-out from restaurants. Options will begin to expand – hopefully including outdoor dining later in Phase I.

• Nursing homes, assisted living and other congregate care facilities remain closed to visitors.
ADDITIONAL WORKPLACE RULES

In order to reopen safely, we all have to do more.

- Providing additional cleaning guidelines.
- Screen employees for symptoms.
- Signage with guidance for employees, customers, and visitors.
- Plus, developing setting-specific guidelines.
WE ALL HAVE TO DO OUR PART

Guidance for all Rhode Islanders

• Don’t go out if you are sick.
• Continue washing hands and following other hygiene best practices.
• Maintain six-foot spacing.
• Wear a face covering.
• Limit group sizes per RI Department of Health guidance.
Non-critical retail reopens with enhanced safety measures.

• Retailers may reopen for in-store pickup and limited browsing. No more than one customer per 300 square feet is allowed in the store at a time.

• Six-foot markings guide customers to maintain safe distance while in line.

• Contactless payment is encouraged as an option.

• Check-out areas should have see-through barriers between employees and customers.
Working from home is still preferred and encouraged for those who can do business remotely.

- Everyone who can work from home should still work from home. Remote work should continue whenever possible.
- Employees may pick up a file or print a document at the office if needed.
- Employees can visit the office on a very limited basis for reasons such as critical meetings – provided that social distancing and other rules are carefully followed.
WHAT’S NEXT IN THE REOPENING PLAN?

Not all Phase I changes will happen on the first day of Phase I.

• Preparations are underway to allow for the limited reopening of other businesses – including outdoor dining at restaurants.

• Outdoor dining precautions will include seating by reservation only, no shared condiments, and spacing between tables (in accordance with guidelines).

• Regulations to allow the reopening of close-contact businesses (including hairdressers and barbers) in a future phase are under development.