

# REOPENING RI

## Guidelines for getting back to business

Rhode Island wants to get Rhode Islanders back to work and has issued general business / organization guidance which is available at [www.reopeningRI.com](http://www.reopeningRI.com). Here are highlights of the key requirements and recommendations for (1) reopening non-critical retail establishments (which are permitted to reopen in Phase 1) and (2) continuing operations of all other employers, including office-based businesses, manufacturers, construction, and others. Close-contact (including personal services, gyms and other fitness studios), recreational, and entertainment businesses remain closed at this time. Restaurants remain restricted to pickup, delivery, and drive-through operations for now.

## New measures we are asking businesses to take

Getting back to work requires all Rhode Islanders and Rhode Island businesses to do their part. As such, we are asking businesses to develop a plan to keep their workers, customers, and visitors safe, to screen anyone entering for symptoms of or risk factors for COVID-19, and to follow all other guidance from the RI Department of Health.

- **COVID-19 Control Plan:** We are asking all businesses and organizations, including those that are currently operating, to develop a written COVID-19 Control Plan outlining how their workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. Businesses and organizations may obtain a **template for the COVID-19 Control Plan** at [www.reopeningri.com](http://www.reopeningri.com). Businesses are asked to complete their template by Monday, May 18, or if reopening thereafter, upon reopening. Non-critical retailers who wish to reopen for Phase 1 (which is permitted starting May 11) will need to complete and sign a checklist indicating that they have reviewed the State of Rhode Island general business and non-critical retail business guidelines; their COVID-19 Control Plan template is due by May 18. While this template does not need to be submitted to a state agency for approval, it must be made available to the Rhode Island Department of Health in the event of an inspection or outbreak. To ask questions about the COVID-19 Control Plan template or reopening checklist, please email: [covidplan@reopeningri.com](mailto:covidplan@reopeningri.com).
- **Access Screening:** Businesses and organizations must screen all entrants for self-reported symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and other COVID-19 risk factors upon entering the building. Screenings can be conducted verbally, by app, by phone, or by another method of the employer's choosing including if necessary (e.g. for visitors and customers) through the communication of screening requirements through the posting of a screening-related poster. Businesses may also choose to supplement screening questions with temperature checks. CDC guidance on temperature checks can be found here: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html). The general business guidance provides additional information about what to do in the event someone is identified as having risk factors or symptoms of COVID-19, as well as details for when an employee may return to the workplace. Sample screening questions for businesses are also available: [health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19\\_Employee\\_Screening\\_Tool.pdf](http://health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf) [health.ri.gov/otherlanguages/spanish/forms/screening/COVID19\\_Employee\\_Screening\\_Tool.pdf](http://health.ri.gov/otherlanguages/spanish/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf)

## Among additional topics covered in the general business guidance document are:

- Space and occupancy limits including capacity guidelines for non-critical retail
- Social distancing rules
- Signage including downloadable and printable posters
- Information on face masks and other personal protective equipment
- Information about testing, required access to cleaning materials and hand hygiene, facility cleaning and disinfection procedures, and procedures to respond to cases of illness in the workplace