

REOPENING RI

Guidance for Rhode Island Colleges, Universities, and Boarding Schools

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is providing the following guidance for students attending colleges, universities, and boarding schools in Rhode Island in fall 2020.

- 1 All students and their families and friends** must follow the requirements of their college, university, or boarding school and [State of Rhode Island Executive Orders](#) (governor.ri.gov/newsroom/orders).
- 2 Students and their families and friends traveling from countries outside of the US or a hot spot* within the US** must quarantine for 14 days within the state when they get to Rhode Island. Families and friends staying in state during or after the student's move-in period must quarantine for the rest of their stay, if less than 14 days. When going out for essential services such as food, medications, or exercise, anyone in quarantine must cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face covering and stay at least six feet apart from people who are not in their quarantine group.
 - As noted on the Rhode Island Department of Health travel web page (health.ri.gov/covid/travel), **quarantining for 14 days after being in another country or US hot spot* is always preferred** over relying on a negative test result. This is important when visiting from a hot spot* for any length of time, even for a weekend or holiday, because quarantining is the best way to limit the spread of COVID-19. A negative test could miss cases in the early stages of infection or later exposures and would only provide results of your COVID-19 status at that specific point in time. Quarantining is especially important because of the potential for rapid viral spread on campuses with shared living, dining, educational, and recreational spaces.
- 3 Families and friends traveling from an international or US hot spot* to visit students or help them move in** should limit time spent on campus and follow physical distancing guidelines while in Rhode Island. They should also limit time spent outside of hotel rooms or other places they might stay, only visit stores for essential items, avoid dining in restaurants, and limit use of public transportation.
- 4 For commuter students or staff who travel to Rhode Island from a hot spot* state on a daily or regular basis**, RIDOH will issue guidance on any restrictions. There are currently no hot spot* states within daily commuting distance to Rhode Island colleges and universities.
- 5 Refer to RIDOH's website for information about quarantine, isolation, testing, and other Rhode Island-specific COVID-19 guidance** at health.ri.gov/covid.

* To find out if your state has been identified as a hot spot, please visit health.ri.gov/covid/travel and click the link for [States with Current RI Travel Restrictions](#).

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