#### **ONLINE SERVICES**

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### **Press Releases**

## **Governor Announces Extension of Distance Learning**

Governor Gina M. Raimondo and Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) provided updates on Rhode Island's response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) today.

• Distance learning: Today, the Governor announced that school buildings will remain closed and distance learning will continue through the end of the school year in June. • Helpline: Parents looking for support as their students engage with distance learning can access a new helpline through the Rhode Island Department of Education and Highlander Institute at 904-414-4927. More information can be found here [highlanderinstitute.org]. • Kids Press Conference: Next Thursday, April 30 at 1PM, Governor Raimondo will hold a second Kids Press Conference. Students can submit questions for the Governor here.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSebN3b7fdFPKu5MmdXawyeG2Cj-Q7SngXzcdZY0Bn0o5B4Rug/viewform]

COVID-19 Data Update Rhode Island has 412 new cases of COVID-19. This brings Rhode Island's count to 6,256. RIDOH also announced 8 additional COVID-19 associated fatalities. Of these eight people, four were nursing home residents. Rhode Island's number of COVID-19 associated fatalities is now 189. A full data summary for Rhode Island is posted online.

Key messages for the public • Anyone who is sick should stay home and self-isolate (unless going out for testing or healthcare). • The people who live with that person and who have been in direct close contact with that person should self-quarantine for 14 days after the last day that that person was in isolation. Direct close contact means being within approximately 6 feet of a person for a prolonged period. • Help is available for people living in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19. Visit www.RIDelivers.com [ridelivers.com] for connections to groceries, home supplies, restaurants, and mutual aid groups. People can also call 2-1-1. • 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 more than five people should not be gathering. Always avoid close personal contact with other people in public. • Healthcare



questions about COVID-19 can visit www.health.ri.gov/covid, write to RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri(https://www. call 401-222-8022. This is the COVID-19 Hotline that RIDOH has available to the public. FEVERYORE can he shutps://tw the spread of viruses in Rhode Island. o Get your flu shot, and make sure the people around you do the same. o

Wash your hands often throughout the day. Use warm water and soap. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. o Cough or sneeze into your elbow. o Stay home and do not leave your house if you are sick, unless it is for emergency medical care. o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.

## **Related links**

**Department or agency:** Department of Health

Online: http://www.health.ri.gov (http://www.health.ri.gov)

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