



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Food Establishment Restrictions: Take-Out and Delivery Only

To slow the spread of COVID-19, Governor Raimondo has announced that there will be no onsite food consumption for restaurants, bars, coffee shops, or other food establishments in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Health highly recommends that you encourage patrons to stay in their cars and to use curbside pick-up for take-out orders. When this is not possible, take-out operations should not exceed 25 customers in a food establishment at a given time (except for grocery stores). This restriction is in effect starting March 17, 2020 and continues through March 30, 2020.

Please follow the guidelines below:

- Encourage patrons to stay in their cars and to use curbside pick-up.
- Buffets and/or salad bars are not allowed in restaurants, bars, coffee shops, or other food establishments (including grocery stores).
- Complimentary buffets at hotels are allowed, but foods must be taken back to the room to be consumed.
- Any self-service operation of unpackaged foods or beverages is not allowed in restaurants, bars, coffee, shops, or other food establishments (including grocery stores).
- Ready-to-eat items that are prepared and served behind a counter and kept protected (e.g., in a deli case with sneeze guards) may be served by a food employee for take-out only (e.g., deli meat, sandwiches).

Returning to Work Following Recovery from a Clinically Diagnosed or Suspected COVID-19 Case for Non-Healthcare Workers:

People with clinically diagnosed (suspected) or confirmed COVID-19 who have stayed home (home isolated) can stop home isolation under the following conditions:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers), AND
- other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved), AND
- at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

All licensed facilities must strictly enforce the following personal and environmental health guidelines:

- Strengthen **health screening** of staff and onsite contractors for COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath; travel history (any travel outside the 50 states of the



District of Columbia in the last 14 days); or exposure to a known or suspected case of COVID-19.

- **Employees must ensure they are following the employee health agreement guidelines.** Anyone feeling sick or showing any symptoms of illness **MUST** stay home.
- Employees who are subject to [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days **must not be working**.
- **Make sure employees wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm water** for 20 seconds upon first arriving to work, after using the restroom, before and after eating, and frequently throughout the day. Employees should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Hand sanitizer should not be used in place of handwashing. If hand sanitizer is used after handwashing, allow time for it to dry completely prior to touching any surfaces or food products.
- **Provide alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizers or similar cleaners** for use by employees by placing them at convenient/accessible locations.
- **No bare-hand contact should occur with ready-to-eat food.** Ensure gloves are worn at all times, following proper glove usage protocols.
- Use sanitizing solution to **frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces and objects** such as cash machine keypads, counter tops, dining tables, doorknobs, electronics, faucet handles, and menus frequently throughout the day. Change the chlorine-based sanitizing solution at least once every four hours.
- **Ensure dishwasher and/or three-compartment sinks are used properly and have the appropriate level of sanitizer** for final rinse (50-100 PPM chlorine-based sanitizer; follow product label for other approved sanitizers).
- **Ensure sneeze guards are in place** where required.

For the latest information, please visit the [Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 web page](#); call RIDOH's COVID-19 Hotline at 401-222-8022 or 211 after hours; or email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov.