



Update to Guidance for Grocery Stores and Markets for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

We know that grocery stores and markets are exceptionally busy during this challenging time and we thank you for supporting Rhode Islanders. In addition to the previous [guidance](#) that was sent out, we wanted to provide an update to emphasize the importance of social distancing. To slow the spread of COVID-19, it is important to implement strategies to encourage social distancing for both your employees and customers.

Consider measures to achieve the social distance recommendation of six (6) feet distance between people:

- Physically space workers and stagger work schedules.
- Consider opening more registers to reduce the number of people in check-out lines, with baggers to reduce the amount of time people are in line.
- Post signs that remind customers to implement social distancing at check-out lines.
- Consider creating six-foot markers to remind customers to distance themselves at check-out lines.
- Add additional staff (e.g., stocking shelves, cashiers, baggers) as needed to reduce the amount of time people are in the store.
- Consider reducing the number of customers allowed in, if check-out lines are frequently overcrowded.
- Ensure all employee break areas accommodate social distancing.

Identify alternative shopping options for customers:

- Designate shopping times for highly vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults, age 60 and older).
- Provide delivery or curbside pick-up of groceries to reduce the number of people in the store.

Please continue to monitor employees to ensure they are not working while sick. We also recommend that signs be posted encouraging customers not to shop while sick. Last, continue to follow the sanitation [guidelines](#) outlined by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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.