



Rhode Island Quarantine FAQ

May 4, 2021

Who must quarantine?

Most people who have recently arrived in Rhode Island from a location outside the United States (US) or US territories or from a hot spot within the US or US territories, and most people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. There are some exceptions described in this FAQ. Learn more about travel at covid.ri.gov/travel and about quarantine and isolation at covid.ri.gov/whattodo.

Who is a close contact?

A close contact is a person who has been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. Close contacts must quarantine for 10 days from their last known exposure to the person with COVID-19. Close contacts may shorten their quarantine to 7 days with a negative result from a test taken 5 days or more after exposure. This exception does not apply to close contacts living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, who must quarantine for 14 days.

Why does someone living in a nursing home or assisted living facility that has a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken at least 5 days after close contact with someone with COVID-19 still have to quarantine for 14 days?

Many people living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities are at high risk for severe illness with COVID-19. To control the spread of the virus in these facilities, it's safest to have residents quarantine for the full 14 days.

What is a congregate care setting?

For purposes of close contact quarantine, a congregate care setting is a nursing home or assisted living facility. This Executive Order does not apply to settings such as group homes and prisons.

Does someone who works at a nursing home or assisted living facility have to quarantine for 14 days?

No. The mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement only applies to people who live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

What is a hot spot?

Hot spots are areas in the US or US territories with high community spread. Community spread means the transmission of an illness for which the source is unknown. Hot spot locations change regularly. Current hot spots are listed at covid.ri.gov/travel.

Do I have to quarantine if I'm traveling for work?

Not if you're traveling or returning to Rhode Island from within the US or US territories.

Does RIDOH recommend one quarantine option over another?

No. But there are different levels of risk for different quarantine options:

Quarantine option	Risk for transmission to others
14 days	Lowest risk: 0.1% - 3%
10 days	Higher risk: 1% - 10%
7 days AND take a test on day 5 or later	Highest risk: 5% - 12%

What type of test is acceptable to reduce the length of quarantine?

All testing methods are acceptable.

What are the quarantine testing differences when arriving from a location inside or outside the US or US territories?

- If you are arriving from a location within the US or US territories that is **not** a hot spot, you do not have to quarantine.
- **If you are arriving from a hot spot within the US or US territories**, you can end quarantine with a negative result from a test taken after you arrived or no more than 72 hours before you arrived.
- **If you are arriving from a location** outside the US or US territories, you need to quarantine for 10 days after arrival **OR** you may shorten quarantine to 7 days with a negative result from a test taken 5 days or more after arrival.

Are there other quarantine exemptions when arriving from a hot spot?

If you arrived from a hot spot within the US or US territories, you do not have to quarantine if:

- You're traveling for work.
- You're a public health, public safety, or healthcare worker.

- You're traveling for medical treatment; to attend a court hearing; to attend funeral or memorial services; to get necessities such as groceries, gas, or medication; to drop off or pick up children from care; or to work on a boat.

If I'm fully vaccinated for COVID-19, do I still have to quarantine?

If you've been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or you've recently arrived in Rhode Island from outside the US or US territories or from a hot spot within the US or US territories, you do not need to quarantine if:

- You've gotten a final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, that is authorized by either the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or World Health Organization (WHO), at least 14 days before your last exposure or out-of-state travel **and**
- You haven't had symptoms of COVID-19 since your last exposure or out-of-state travel.

Always watch for symptoms for a full 14 days. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, isolate at home and get tested. Vaccinated close contacts and travelers should still get a COVID-19 test between 5 and 10 days after their last exposure or out-of-state travel. Vaccinated hospitalized patients and long-term care facility residents must still quarantine for 14 days.

If I've already had COVID-19, do I have to quarantine?

- **If you've tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days** and completed your isolation period, you are not required to quarantine unless you begin to have or still have symptoms. You are also not considered a close contact if you are near someone with COVID-19 within that 90-day period. If you have symptoms, isolate at home, call your healthcare provider, and get a COVID-19 test. Learn more at covid.ri.gov/testing.
- **If it's been more than 90 days** since you were infected with COVID-19, you must follow quarantine requirements when traveling or if you have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Do I need to provide proof of my COVID-19 status when I travel?

- The CDC requires all air passengers arriving in the US from any foreign country to provide a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery. Find details at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html.
- If you've tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, RIDOH recommends that you carry proof of your positive COVID-19 test result when you travel.

If I live with someone who tested positive, can I now quarantine for fewer than 24 days?

Yes. If you are able to stay separate from the sick person, quarantine for 7 to 10 days from the date of the last close contact. If you are not able to stay separate from the sick person, quarantine while the person is in isolation plus an additional 7 to 10 days, for a total of 17 to 20 days. When RIDOH calls the person who tested positive, RIDOH will give that person the exact dates of quarantine for household members. Learn more at covid.ri.gov/whattodo.

My mother, who is in hospice, is a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and is in quarantine for the next 13 days. She might die at any moment. Can I visit with her?

Yes. Nursing home and assisted living facilities should allow compassionate care visits at all levels of visitor restrictions. This includes, but is not limited to, end-of-life situations. Wear a mask and watch your distance any time you're near people you don't live with, indoors and outdoors.

If I operate a business such as a child care facility, nursing home, funeral home, or other private business, can I require my staff to quarantine for more than 7 days even if they get a negative result from a test taken at least 5 days after the close contact?

Yes. Employers may require employees to quarantine for longer periods than the shortest quarantine option in the Executive Order.

Can I offer a shorter quarantine period for my staff but require children attending my child care and their parents to wait for 10 days before returning to child care?

Yes, as long as staff comply with the Executive Order.

If one person in a classroom or stable pod has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, does everyone in that group have to quarantine?

No, unless they have all been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.