REOPENING RI

Travel Tips:
How to Build COVID-19 Testing into your Itinerary

Rhode Islanders planning to travel out of state should be mindful of any testing/quarantine requirements that may be in place at their destination. Some states require that visitors provide proof of a negative test result taken within 72 hours (three days) prior to their arrival.

Appointments become available in Rhode Island’s test scheduling portal seven days in advance. Due to high demand for testing appointments, if you anticipate needing a test due to planned travel, RIDOH urges you to visit portal.ri.gov 10 days prior to your anticipated date of travel. This timeframe helps ensure you can schedule a test and receive your results before you arrive at your destination.

The sample timeline below provides guidance on how you can incorporate testing into your travel plans. In this example, a Rhode Islander is planning to arrive at their travel destination on Friday, September 4.

Tuesday, August 25 (10 days out):
Go to portal.ri.gov and schedule a traveler’s test. Since the test must be within the three days prior to arrival, the test should be scheduled for September 1. August 25 is the earliest day appointments for that date become available.

Tuesday, September 1 (three days out):
Receive a COVID-19 test. Rhode Islanders who schedule a traveler’s test will be notified of their results within 48 hours (two days.) Visit the Accu Reference Patient Portal to create an account. This is where you will receive your results.

Thursday, September 3 (one day out):
Check the Accu Reference Patient Portal for confirmation of a negative test result. Traveler should print their documentation or save it on their smart device to easily locate when needed.

Friday, September 4 (day of travel):
Anticipated arrival at travel destination. Traveler is able to provide proof of a negative test result.

Rhode Islanders should also visit portal.ri.gov to schedule a test upon their return from out-of-state travel. Anyone traveling from countries outside of the US or a state identified as a hot spot must quarantine for 14 days when they return to Rhode Island. Quarantining for 14 days is always preferred over relying on a negative test result as quarantining is the best way to limit the possibility of spreading COVID-19.