



## **Data FAQs**

### **Where do Rhode Island's coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) data come from?**

COVID-19 data are reported by private and public laboratories and hospitals and other healthcare facilities through an electronic reporting system to the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

### **How up to date are the data?**

The data dashboard is updated Monday through Friday at approximately 12 p.m. There are data that are updated on a weekly basis. Those data are clearly marked on the data page.

### **Where can we find more data on COVID-19 cases?**

The latest COVID-19 data for Rhode Island are available on RIDOH's [COVID-19 data page](#). For information on cases across the United States, please visit the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#) and/or other state health departments' websites. For information on cases around the world, please visit the [World Health Organization website](#).

### **Why are some numbers listed as "<5"?**

"<5" means fewer than five. Rhode Island has a [Small Numbers Policy](#) to ensure the reliability of all data included in RIDOH reports and to protect the privacy of individuals. As a result, counts less than five are suppressed.

## **Dashboard: COVID-19 Data Tracker**

**\*As of 8/12/2020, the number of tests reflect number of people tested per day, rather than the total number of tests. The new methodology does not include the roughly 1,500 instances, to date, where an individual was tested on the same day at multiple testing locations. Data are reported by date of test result.**

### **Total Tests**

- About these data: "Total Tests" is the total number of people who have been tested. These data are received from case investigations and electronic laboratory reporting. This number does not include people who have tested twice in a single day but does include people who have tested multiple times across different days, which reflects one of the state's key surveillance testing goals to continue to test vulnerable populations. Other states have labeled this value as "test encounters."
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday. The cumulative total posted on Monday includes data from Saturday and Sunday.

## Total Positive Cases

- About these data: This number represents the total number of unique people who have tested positive. Although one person may be tested multiple times, a person is only included in this count once. (For example, if someone tests positive and continues to test positive, they are not counted again because this is considered the same case. A person is reflected in the count on the date of their first positive test.)
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday. The cumulative total posted on Monday includes data from Saturday and Sunday.

## Tests Prior Day

- About these data: This is the total number of people tested the prior day. This number removes duplicate people, meaning this number does not include people who tested multiple times in a single day. Other states have labeled this value as “test encounters.”
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## New Positive Cases

- About these data: This number represents the number of new people who were tested and found to be positive for COVID-19, on the day prior to this data report. A person is reflected in the count on the date of their first positive test.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## Percent Positive Prior Day

- About these data: This is the number of new positive cases out of the total tests resulted on the previous day.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## Total Fatalities

- About these data: This is the total number of COVID-19-associated fatalities in Rhode Island. COVID-19 associated fatalities are deaths among people who are positive for COVID-19.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday. The cumulative total posted on Monday includes data from Saturday and Sunday.

## New Fatalities

- About these data: This is the number of COVID-19-associated fatalities in confirmed the day prior to this data report. Because of the time it takes to determine a cause of death, there is a lag between when someone passes away and when they are confirmed as a COVID-19 associated fatality. COVID-19 associated fatalities are deaths among people who are positive for COVID-19.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## People Hospitalized

- About these data: This number is the number of people who were hospitalized and who had lab-confirmed COVID-19. There is generally a one-day lag in reporting these numbers, because when someone is hospitalized with symptoms for COVID-19, time is often needed to test this person to determine if they are COVID-19 positive or not.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## People in ICU

- About these data: This number is a subset of those who are hospitalized and represents the total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 who are currently in the intensive care unit.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## New Positive Cases and People Hospitalized with Three-Day Averages

- About these data: These graphs show the number of new positive cases reported each day and the three-day average of positive cases; and the number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized and the three-day average for people with COVID-19 who are. A three-day average provides a more accurate picture of trends by smoothing out single-day deviations. The average is calculated by averaging the number for the current reported date and the previous two days.
- When are these data updated? These data are updated daily, Monday through Friday.

## Google Data Sheet

### People-level data:

**New people who tested positive:** This is the number of people who had their first positive test result on this day. This number removes duplicates by person and only includes people based on the first date of their first positive test.

**New people who only tested negative:** This is the number of people who have never tested positive and had their first negative test result on this day. This number removes duplicates by person.

**Cumulative total tests completed:** This is the total number of people who have ever been tested. We receive positive test results through case investigation data and negative test results through electronic laboratory reporting. This number is de-duplicated by person across days, meaning this number includes only one result per person based on the first date of the result. People who receive repeat tests on different days are not included.

### Test-level data:

**Daily number of people who tested positive (unique people by day, may count people more than once on different days):** This is the number of unique people with positive results from this day. For example, if a person tests positive over two days, they will be counted once for each day. This person will only be counted once if they test positive twice in one day.

**Daily number of people who tested negative (unique people by day, may count people more than once on different days):** This is the number of unique people with negative test results from that day. For example, if a person tests negative on two different days, they will be counted once for each day. This person will only be counted once if they test negative twice in one day.

**Daily number of people tested (unique people by day, may count people more than once on different days):** This is the total number of people who were tested that day as received from electronic laboratory reporting and includes the daily number of people who tested positive and the daily number of people who tested negative.