



REOPENING RI: CHARTING THE COURSE

—
April 27, 2020

RHODE
ISLAND

THE CHALLENGE

We've been weathering a storm.

This is an unprecedented situation.

We're facing a public health crisis with devastating economic consequences.

We're weathering the storm.

We've hunkered down to save lives and to give ourselves time to prepare. While we've maintained economic activity through the crisis and closed fewer sectors than neighboring states, the economic toll has still been enormous.

We're better prepared.

Many significant challenges for public health and economic health remain. The good news is we have now had time to prepare our hospital system, ramp up our testing abilities, and we're making plans to adapt.

Guided by the latest science and a data-driven approach.

Our understanding of the virus continues to evolve, and we are also able to learn from the experiences of those around us while gathering the latest data on the effects of the virus in Rhode Island.

Reopening RI safely is our top priority.

The economy won't reopen with the flick of a switch. To begin reopening safely, we must use a targeted approach based on facts.

THE CONTEXT

We'll get to our destination together.

Partnership is key.

We're in this together. We've talked with thousands of Rhode Islanders. We engage regularly with medical experts, healthcare providers, business leaders, municipal leaders, community groups, and other stakeholders. We take their feedback seriously.

We want all of Rhode Island to benefit from your ideas.

This is just the beginning. Rhode Islanders are known for our creativity and our ability to solve problems, no matter how challenging. If you have ideas, we want to hear from you. [Submit your suggestions here.](#)

No state can do this alone.

We're learning from the experiences across the world and coordinating with neighboring states as well as our federal partners.

We must plan, but we also have to be flexible.

Reopening the economy requires thoughtful planning. Rhode Islanders want to know what lies ahead. But we also need to be prepared to adapt to evolving and unprecedented circumstances. We will communicate updates every week.

New challenges and opportunities lie ahead.

We don't know exactly what our new destination will look like, and we almost certainly will face setbacks. But we know Rhode Islanders will emerge from this challenge stronger and more resilient.

THE PLAN

Our strategy to reopen the economy is a phased approach to maintain flexibility.



KEY INDICATORS

We'll begin reopening Rhode Island when we can answer "yes" to these questions.

01

Has the rate of spread continued to decrease?

02

Do we have the capacity to quickly identify community spread on an ongoing basis before a major outbreak occurs?

03

Do we have the necessary supports in place for vulnerable populations and for anyone in quarantine?

04

Does our healthcare system have the capacity and the PPE to handle future surges?

05

Do businesses, schools, childcare sites, faith organizations, and recreational spaces have plans for long-term social distancing?

06

Are we prepared to reimpose measures, or reclose certain sectors of the economy, if it becomes necessary?

THE GOAL

Eventually we'll land, with the storm well behind us; stronger for having gotten through it together.

