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**General COVID Testing Information**

**As of April 1**, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recommends that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested. The symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches (myalgias), chills, runny nose or stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, or diarrhea. As we learn more about the virus, we know that some people with COVID-19 have only experienced one or two mild symptoms.

**Patients with health insurance**

* If you are tested at an urgent care, physician office, health center, emergency room, or hospital, there is no cost to the patient for lab tests.
* You should not be charged for a visit with a physical exam or a tele-health evaluation for a COVID-like illness.
* If you are charged for either of these services, talk to your provider at the time of service. If you still have questions, contact your health insurer’s customer service phone number on the back of your health insurance card.

**Patients without health insurance**

* You will be charged for a COVID-19 test and/or a doctor’s visit if you go to a Respiratory Clinic or to a healthcare provider’s office.
* You can get a free COVID-19 test three ways:
  + Call your provider (if you have one) to get an order for a COVID-19 test at one of the drive-up testing sites at URI in South Kingstown, at CCRI in Warwick, or at Rhode Island College in Providence.
  + Go [online](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing) to be pre-screened for CVS rapid testing and to get an appointment.
  + You can make an appointment to get tested at Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic in Providence. Drive-up testing is available three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please call 401-408-0238 and visit their [website](http://aplacetobehealthy.org/) to find more detailed information. Services are multilingual, including in Spanish.

[Transportation options](https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/#trans) to COVID-19 testing may be available to eligible Rhode Islanders.

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**Ways to get tested for COVID-19**

**Respiratory Clinics**

* A number of urgent care centers and primary care providers in Rhode Island have set up separate areas that serve as [Respiratory Clinics](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1En3Y0HUr6KCb-lqXRYVD8abn-C0XwuULmylLvgPO-TM/edit#gid=0), meaning they are specifically evaluating patients suspected of having COVID-19. While these Respiratory Clinics are located in specific areas just for those patients, urgent care centers are still open to see patients who need other services in their usual locations.
* You must call a Respiratory Clinic first. Unless someone is experiencing a medical emergency, no one should go directly to any healthcare facility.

Most Respiratory Clinics can obtain specimens and order tests.

**Drive-Up Testing Sites**

Drive-up testing sites are located at URI in South Kingstown, CCRI in Warwick, and Rhode Island College in Providence.

* Your doctor must order you a test and you must have an appointment to be tested at one of these sites. Please do not show up without an appointment.
* These drive-up testing sites are open seven days a week.
* These sites are available for drive-through only. Currently, these sites are not able to accommodate individuals who arrive on foot or via public transportation.
* Staff at the drive-up sites will not swab children younger than 12. Parents and caregivers can swab their own children at the testing sites with coaching from staff at the site. If parents are uncomfortable with obtaining a sample from their child, they can call a respiratory clinic that accepts pediatric patients.

**Drive-up Site at Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic**

You can make an appointment and get tested at Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic in Providence. Drive-up testing is available three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please call 401-408-0238 and visit their [website](http://aplacetobehealthy.org/) to find more detailed information. Services are multilingual, including in Spanish.

**Drive-up and Walk-up Site by Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC)**

Starting on Tuesday, April 21, drive-up and walk-up COVID-19 testing will be provided by PCHC in tents in the parking lot of **Robert L. Bailey IV Elementary School**, at 65 Gordon Avenue. The walk-up testing option does not require a car. This option is located across the street from **PCHC’s Prairie Avenue clinic**. Bilingual personnel, materials, and signage will be available at the site. Testing is available to symptomatic PCHC patients with a referral from their primary care provider and an appointment. PCHC encourages its existing patients to call their health center for an appointment. New patients can call 401-444-0404 for assistance and can find more information [here](https://www.providencechc.org/).

**CVS Rapid Results Tests**

CVS Health is offering drive-through Rapid COVID-19 Testing for eligible individuals at Twin River Casino in Lincoln.

* Go [online](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing) to be pre-screened for testing and to get an appointment. **The Rapid Testing Site will not test people who do not have an appointment.**
  + You may learn that you do not meet the criteria for a RAPID COVID-19 test. You can still be tested through the other methods mentioned above (calling your provider, an urgent care clinic, or a respiratory clinic for a test appointment).
* The Rapid Testing Site is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m; Saturday, 10:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
* When you arrive at the testing site, you must stay in your car. Staff will check your registration and tell you what to do. You will be asked to show proof of identity and in-state residence (utility bill, cell phone bill, bank statement, etc). Government issued ID is not required.
* The entire process, including getting your results, takes about 30 minutes.
* If you share your healthcare provider’s name and office contact information, CVS will notify your healthcare provider of your COVID-19 test results.

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**Information for People with Transportation and Mobility Issues**

**Providence-area residents:** Starting on Tuesday, April 21, drive-up and walk-up COVID-19 testing will be provided by Providence Community Health Center (PCHC) in tents in the parking lot of Robert L. Bailey IV Elementary School, at 65 Gordon Avenue in Providence. The walk-up testing does not require a car. This option is located across the street from PCHC’s Prairie Avenue clinic. Bilingual personnel, materials, and signage will be available at the site. Testing is available to symptomatic PCHC patients with a referral from their primary care provider and an appointment. PCHC encourages its existing patients to call their health center for an appointment. New patients can call 401-444-0404 for assistance and can find more information [here](https://www.providencechc.org/).

**Medicaid-eligible individuals:**MTM has procedures/policies in place to transport Medicaid and ETP (Elderly Transportation Program: individuals 60 years of age and older) individuals to COVID-19 testing sites. MTM will confirm individuals are eligible for transport, have an authorization for testing and have no other transportation options prior to scheduling a trip. Eligible individuals can call: 1-855-330-9131 (TTY: 711) [MORE](https://www.mtm-inc.net/rhode-island/) *This service is only available if no other transportation options are available.*

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**How do I get my COVID-19 test results?**

How you get your test results depends on how you got your COVID-19 test.

* If you get your test at the **Rhode Island Hospital, Kent Hospital, or Newport Hospital testing site**, someone from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) will call you with your results.
* If you **got a test order from your healthcare provider and you went to a drive-up testing site**at URI, CCRI, or Rhode Island College, the healthcare provider who ordered the test will call you with your test results. You can also get your test results by using the[Eastside Clinical Laboratories (ESCL) Patient Portal](https://escl.luminatehealth.com/). (COVID-19 testing is the only result that is currently available in this patient portal.)
* Anyone who is tested at the **CVS Rapid Testing Site at Twin River Casino** will get test results before they leave the site.

It might take three or four days to get your test results. While you are waiting for your test results, stay at home and isolate yourself from others to try not to spread your symptoms to others.

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**What Happens If I Test Positive?**

* Your name and contact information will be shared with public health staff at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to help with case investigation.
* Someone from the Department of Health will call you and ask you for a list of people you have had close contact with during your infectious period. If you were tested at the CVS Rapid Testing Site at Twin River Casino, a nurse practitioner from CVS will also contact you to review how you can prevent spreading COVID-19 to other people and how you can take care of yourself.
* Stay at home, wash your hands frequently, wear a face mask (or a [cloth face covering](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) if a mask is not available), stay away from other people in your home, and clean “high-touch” surfaces” (doorknobs, railings, phones, counters, faucet handles) every day. You can leave your home if these three things have happened:
  + You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three days) without using medicine that reduces fevers.
  + Your other symptoms have completely resolved (stopped).
  + It has been at least seven days since you started having symptoms.
* If any of your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider.

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**What Happens If I Test Negative?**

* Your name and contact information will be shared with public health staff at RIDOH to help with case investigation.
* If you start having any symptoms of COVID-19 after the test, call your healthcare provider and ask if you should be tested again.
* Wash your hands often and practice social distancing (six feet between you and other people).
* Wear a [cloth face covering](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) when you leave your house.
* If you are sick, stay home from work.
* Clean “high-touch” surfaces” (doorknobs, railings, phones, counters, faucet handles) every day.

*If you test negative for COVID-19, you most likely were not infected at the time your specimen was collected. However, that does not mean you will not get sick. It is possible that you were very early in your infection at the time of your specimen collection and that you could test positive later, or you could be exposed later and then develop illness. In other words, a negative test result does not rule out getting sick later.  Even with a negative test, it is important for health care workers and others who have direct patient contact not to go to work sick.*

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**What Happens If I Have Been Told To Quarantine?**

* Your name and contact information will be shared with RIDOH to help you monitor for symptoms.
* You will receive an email with a letter explaining how to monitor your health while in quarantine. This email will also contain a COVID-19 Daily Symptom and Temperature Log where you can record your temperature each day.
* If you opted to receive daily text messages to help monitor your symptoms, you will receive these messages from a phone number that has an 844 area code. These messages will ask you if you developed symptoms each day.
* If you are not using the text messages and you develop a fever of 100.4°F or higher or you have any symptoms other than those listed on your Symptom and Temperature Log, please call RIDOH immediately.
* If you have been told to quarantine, please stay at home during this 14-day period.